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VOLUME II

YUKON/KUSKOKWIM FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Nunapitchuk Community Hall
Nunapitchuk, Alaska
March 22, 2000
8:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Harry Wilde, Chairman
Robert Nick, Co-Chairman
Willard Church, Acting Secretary
Mary Gregory
James Charles
John Hanson, Sr.
Billy McCann
Phillip Moses
Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.
Lester Wilde
John Andrew, Coordinator
Andrew Kelly, Interpreter
Alex Nick, Interpreter

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2
3 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

4
5 INTERPRETER: We're going to continue this
6 afternoon. We're talking about last night. And when we
7 come to a new item, I will turn the chair over to Harry and
8 Mike.

9
10 CHAIRMAN NICK: Last night (in Yup'ik).....

11
12 INTERPRETER: Last night we were on.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICK:for 2001 project
15 priorities, ideas. (In Yup'ik)

16
17 INTERPRETER:project 2001.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICK: On the chalk board (in
20 Yup'ik).

21
22 INTERPRETER: On the chalk board are the
23 words that we were discussing last night.

24
25 CHAIRMAN NICK: We left off to revisit that
26 item this morning when we started, so we have one
27 additional item. John Hanson had a comment on another
28 project that we thought was on the blackboard yesterday.
29 John.

30
31 MR. HANSON: I knew you forgot to write
32 (indiscernible) Andreafsky North Fork. I'll keep an eye on
33 you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN NICK: Harry and Lester, what we
36 left off yesterday some ideas on what we could probably
37 look at as 2001 projects. They haven't been prioritized
38 yet, so before we leave them, we need to prioritize those
39 ideas. One project there, the TEK, the Quinhagak -- the
40 request from Quinhagak was if they could include it in this
41 year's 2000 projects, they'd like that, but if not, they
42 could -- it could probably be part of the 2001 priorities.
43 (In Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: Do you have any other ideas
46 to be discussed and added onto the list? Those ones that
47 we talked about yesterday when -- the ones that AVCP Bering
48 Sea salmon project and subsistence harvest determinations
49 and our resolution was discussed about local hire, how the
50 local hire people would be involved and Fish & Game

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1 surveyed the different areas in the Yukon.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICK: Verified stream surveys,
4 salmon surveys, Quinhagak, TEK, clear water stream surveys
5 in the Lower Yukon, white fish ecology to which we have two
6 additions to reconsider, station sonar sites, hours of
7 operation, Andreafsky North Fork where (indiscernible).
8 Did you think of any others that you probably recall from
9 the Fairbanks discussions?

10

11 MR. KRUEGER: My recollection was that in
12 Fairbanks too there was considerable discussion about the
13 fish that contributed to the fishery, where were they
14 spawned, how many different rivers were contributing to the
15 catch, say in the lower river, and how was that catch --
16 which fish were caught the most in the lower river. That
17 was my recollection. Do you recall that, Robert?

18

19 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yeah. Gerald, on the
20 spawning, you know, discussion of surveys, there was some
21 thought that rather than going way up to the headwaters,
22 that they may be going up tributaries in the lower area to
23 spawn. Do you recall that discussion?

24

25 MR. NICHOLAI: Yeah.

26

27 MR. KRUEGER: Identification of the
28 different streams or populations of fish and how they
29 contribute to the fishery.

30

31 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right.

32

33 MR. BRELSFORD: That's king salmon or what?

34

35 MR. KRUEGER: King salmon, but salmon in
36 general. King salmon was certainly one of the key species.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICK: Willard.

39

40 MR. CHURCH: On Tab R, the very last page,
41 last two pages, page 5 and 6, there's two areas here. One
42 is the need to document TEK on long-term variation in
43 abundance and the existing data would be available in local
44 residence and the comments section says that management
45 needs to know over long-time scales 20 years of variations
46 stock abundance. I think this would be a good project here
47 for Native communities to be involved in because this TEK
48 information can only be gathered from long time residents
49 and I think the elders could take a major role in being a
50 part of this project.

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1

2

3 And then the second project on page 6 here or the
4 first project on page 6, the issue that would be addressed
5 would be causes of variation in abundance need to be
6 identified. So these two areas for the Kuskokwim I think
7 would be very important and a good opportunity for villages
8 to take a part of. Also, this is another area that I think
9 the tribes that have the capacity to work to develop the
10 projects in their communities.

11

12 There's one other area that I think should be
13 included in all the TEK projects. You know, a lot of times
14 we identify the problems and the issues, you know, the
15 effects of changes. Well, I think it's time that we should
16 start also looking towards the solution. We can talk to
17 our elders and find out, you know, this is the problem, why
18 the problem was caused, but also work with them to try to
19 find the solutions to the problems, ways that we could
20 remedy the decline in fish stocks for example.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICK: Another comment I might add
23 to what Willard just stated. Yesterday we heard one elder
24 talk about his -- and why he thinks, you know, why there's
25 no whitefish up here and he stated a number of reasons.
26 For this particular area, he unequivocally stated why
27 there's no more white fishing. One of them is that people
28 leave their nets, have them freeze over with fish in them
29 and they leave their nets unattended. Maybe some learn
30 that this local knowledge process for control or maybe as a
31 way to sustain, you know, numbers. Local knowledge, I
32 guess, local rules.

33

34 MR. KRUEGER: And fishing practices.

35

36 CHAIRMAN NICK: Those rules go way back.

37

38 MR. KRUEGER: Yeah, local rules.

39

40 MR. BRELSFORD: That's local rules for
41 conservation?

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICK: Uh-huh. Yesterday, you
44 know, Mr. Berlin very strongly stated why there's no more
45 fishing. He cushioned our research, blaming the beavers.

46

47 MR. BRELSFORD: Traditional conservation,
48 Buster said.

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right, right. Daily
understood terms.

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1 MR. BRELSFORD: This would be really very
2 important work, very new.

3
4 CHAIRMAN NICK: How about the elected 2000
5 projects. Should we have a say on continuation of what --
6 like the recommendation on Pilot Station sites? Should we
7 revisit 2000 sites somewhere in the process?

8
9 MR. BRELSFORD: If there's other ones --
10 next year, if you want to look again at some other ones, we
11 wrote down Pilot Station for now, but there would be other
12 sites, monitoring sites on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim
13 Rivers.

14
15 CHAIRMAN NICK: Right. But in the new
16 projects, like the research -- like the one in Hooper Bay
17 that will be reviewed today. Lester.

18
19 MR. WILDE: I don't know if I'm in order or
20 not. I just wanted to know whereabouts on the agenda we
21 are.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICK: We're under subsistence
24 fishery management update.

25
26 MS. GREGORY: Quintuk (ph).

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICK: On the last item.
29 Sometime, when we're done with this, we'll come back to the
30 Hooper Bay project. So it's on hold. Jimmy. Can you come
31 to the microphone, please.

32
33 MR. STEVENS: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 INTERPRETER: That last item on the project
36 report. One time we tried two people, two younger people,
37 along with two elders as a test in that monitoring, but
38 then I guess we ran out of money. That's why they don't do
39 that any more. But we'll still continue to observe these
40 fish. The problem is that there is no funding available to
41 continue that in that area.

42
43 CHAIRMAN NICK: The traditional
44 conservation methods will be kind of in general. So Taylor
45 -- Jimmy just brought out what was done here -- what was
46 tried here. Mr. Berlin, yesterday, stated that they tried
47 something here, but, you know, it wasn't followed through.
48 The one thing that they did here is they selected two
49 elders and then two younger people to check the rivers to
50 see if there's any rotting fish in nets and then, when they

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1 find some, they used to get on a VHF radio and find out
2 whose net it is, you know, and then ask them to take it off
3 or check it or take it out. And then sometimes they even -
4 - those four even took nets out of the water, but they
5 discontinued because of -- you know, they did it
6 voluntarily and then they had to pay their own gas, so
7 Mr. Stevens here was thinking that maybe this is one idea.
8 Taylor, do you want a longer list or is that -- we're
9 talking about 2001 priorities, that's next here.

10
11 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. I think it's best -
12 - I think this is a good edition.

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICK: Willard.

15
16 MR. CHURCH: The thing that I would like to
17 suggest for any projects that would be conducted in our
18 villages, it goes along with hiring local, we should make
19 it a mandatory requirement that for all the projects that
20 we provide training for local Native technicians so that
21 they can be trained in the proper protocol for conducting
22 these types of projects and surveys, that way it's a
23 guarantee that whenever a project does come up we'll have
24 local people given the opportunity to get this important
25 training and that can help develop their skill as natural
26 resource technicians. It should be a priority.

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICK: Willard, I agree. When
29 most of these programs came out in the '60s, they had an
30 affirmative action plan attached to the project where local
31 people were trained to eventually take the technician
32 positions. So maybe that's an excellent idea that all
33 these local projects have a requirement that they have an
34 affirm -- that the bill have an affirmative action plan to
35 train local technicians. James.

36
37 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, how about
38 house-to-house harvest survey like Alaska Department of
39 Fish & Game does, count harvest surveys. They send a
40 couple of people to villages or hire somebody and do a
41 house-to-house harvest survey on fish they catch. They do
42 that in the fall time. And I brought a harvest calendar
43 before too that some people use their harvest calendar.
44 For those who does not fill their calendars, that house-to-
45 house survey is helpful to see how the catches are, how the
46 people are doing on their subsistence catch.

47
48 CHAIRMAN NICK: Similar to the one they do
49 on migratory birds? We have one here in the village.

50

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1 MR. BRELSFORD: I think that was part of
2 what was called subsistence harvest determinations. This
3 would be the method of achieving that goal.

4
5 CHAIRMAN NICK: Phillip Moses.

6
7 MR. MOSES: Good morning. (In Yup'ik)

8
9 INTERPRETER: I wanted to say something,
10 but -- this morning I wanted to say something, but -- I
11 wanted to say that maybe later on they will come. Maybe
12 when they come, it would be appropriate that you speak when
13 our elders come and listen to -- would like to continue on
14 with what we're doing and we would appreciate it if you
15 would wait a little bit and when Harry takes over, I will
16 remind him to give you an opportunity to talk with the
17 elders when they come. Maybe we have enough things to talk
18 about now on the list. We might not be able to finish what
19 we're supposed to be doing. Maybe it would be better if we
20 prioritize this list and work on it. Later on we could
21 prioritize these items.

22
23 MR. WILDE, SR.: Mr. Chairman, I've got
24 one, too.

25
26 CHAIRMAN NICK: Yes.

27
28 MR. WILDE, SR.: The only thing I really
29 see is that, you know, we need to get local hire for test
30 nets we have on the Yukon. They're mostly -- you know,
31 they've got these out-of-town testers. If they could be
32 local hire, they'd have more -- because each village knows
33 where to go.

34
35 MR. OWELTUCK: Mr. Chairman, I think it's
36 down in the mouth of the Yukon, some of those test nets are
37 taken care of by Native people down there and some of them
38 are subcontract with tribal down there. I don't know about
39 the one in Marshall. The one in Mountain Village, it's
40 subcontract -- not subcontract, but it's Native people
41 there, tribal are running that place. They've got village
42 people working on that test net.

43
44 MR. CHARLES: Yeah, that -- you know, like
45 if we got -- we get a grant for that or maybe we can use
46 our own people.

47
48 CHAIRMAN NICK: Alvin, we have James
49 Charles and Billy who are members of the Fish & Game
50 Advisory Board and I believe they're going to have a

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1 meeting March 20 -- 10th of March when they discuss (in
2 Yup'ik).

3
4 INTERPRETER: They will get together in
5 Anchorage to talk about resource. I think it would be
6 appropriate for you to remind of these test net sites and
7 monitor the fish, utilizing the local people.

8
9 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICK: Les.

12
13 MR. WILDE: One of the problems that hasn't
14 been addressed -- I don't know what's in the project
15 narrative for 2000, but the concern that the villages at
16 Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak have is the clean up of
17 the old dump at the Army base in Cape Hermanduk (ph). We'd
18 like to set that as a priority somewhere to clean up some
19 of the mess that we have in the areas for subsistence
20 harvest.

21
22 CHAIRMAN NICK: I think it's proper, a
23 proper project.

24
25 MR. WILDE: Yeah, not only there, but in
26 different areas around the rivers and the areas that need
27 to be looked at.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICK: I think we have a good list
30 there, pretty long list. Maybe what we could do is -- what
31 would you recommend expeditiously to prioritize them?

32
33 MR. BRELSFORD: I think it's actually not
34 necessary to list between them, number them 1, 2, 3.
35 Having a good, long list like this, that's the goal for
36 today, so I think this is actually sufficient.

37
38 CHAIRMAN NICK: (In Yup'ik)

39
40 INTERPRETER: Maybe we could go -- we don't
41 need to prioritize. He's just repeating what was said.

42
43 CHAIRMAN NICK: If it gets on a 2000 list
44 of proposals, then we can get it off this list and then be
45 a clear project.

46
47 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICK: Proposed land. We'll see
50 if it gets approved.

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1 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

2
3 CHAIRMAN NICK: I guess with that, if we
4 can have a list on a clean sheet. We have laptop computers
5 next door at the IRA building that we could probably
6 borrow. I could type them up and we can have them in our
7 packets before the meetings so we know when -- we'll have
8 an idea of what the 2000 proposed projects will be. Okay.
9 I guess with that we'll continue on and it will take us to
10 new business. Before we do, on the first page yesterday we
11 left off a couple items in anticipation of Harry and Lester
12 arriving here today. The first one is the chairman's
13 report. So I guess I'll give the chair back to Harry.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

16
17 INTERPRETER: Harry said that he was
18 preparing for his report and he was going to be hitting the
19 highlights of the chairman's report, but then he was going
20 to be chartering up to Nunapitchuk yesterday, but then he
21 traveled on snowmachine instead yesterday and left all of
22 his paperwork down in Bethel. He's going to just memorize
23 his report.

24
25 Yesterday or on the 20th John Thompson was admitted
26 to the hospital in Anchorage and he was going to be seen
27 yesterday. Using our tradition, we're going to stand up
28 and do a silent prayer for him at this time. (Pause)
29 Thank you very much. He promised John Thompson that he
30 will ask everyone to remember him in their silent prayer
31 for his recovery.

32
33 The Yukon-Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional Advisory
34 Council training in Anchorage with the counsel members from
35 western, eastern. We held a count the string that time.
36 During the caucus, we drafted three resolutions. Working
37 with the western, eastern and Y-K RAC's. We were concerned
38 about the Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers because we were concerned
39 about fighting for the resource between the Lower and Upper
40 Kuskokwim, Yukon areas. After drafting three resolutions,
41 one of the resolutions intends in these two rivers all the
42 fishery resources. The subsistence users contribute to the
43 decline of the fishery resources in Kuskokwim and Yukon
44 area, but then we're only blaming the high seas fishery and
45 then two separate fisheries.

46
47 The three resolutions, beginning from number one,
48 they're in the resolution packets that were distributed to
49 participants. These resolutions are self-explanatory. I'm
50 not going to be reading any of the resolutions. The only

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1 thing I am going to mention is what the intent of these
2 resolutions are.

3
4 All of these resolutions are directed to the
5 federal subsistence fisheries management because there's
6 interception for all of the fish that's destined for these
7 two rivers and because it's causing a lot of impacts on the
8 fishery resources that are coming back to Yukon-Kuskokwim
9 Delta. We are requesting that studies be done. That's the
10 intent of the first resolution, is action be taken
11 regarding distant marine intercept fisheries that
12 negatively impact the subsistence fisheries. The Eastern
13 Interior, Western Interior, Yukon Delta chairperson sends
14 these resolutions. When the resolutions are passed, each
15 chairperson from Eastern Interior, Western Interior, Yukon-
16 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council chairpersons sign
17 when we come up to an agreement that each resolution is an
18 agreement between all of those three parties.

19
20 Another resolution is to direct or request studies
21 on the impacts of hatchery salmon because that might have
22 some impact on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers. When we were
23 holding caucus, we discussed these issues and because the
24 hatchery salmon fishery might have some impact on the
25 declining resources and also it might have some
26 contaminants, you know, in the fish itself. All the
27 subsistence users in the Upper Yukon and also in the Lower
28 Yukon will work closely together. After coming up with an
29 agreement and voting on those, we signed these resolutions.

30
31 The last resolution is also similar to the third
32 resolution or rather second resolution. The resolution is
33 in opposition of hatcheries on the Yukon and in Kuskokwim
34 Rivers. This resolution is requesting that no hatcheries
35 should be established in the Yukon and Kuskokwim area.
36 They have a hatchery up in boundaries of the Alaska and
37 Canadian borders. They have hatchery and they release a
38 lot of fries into the river. This resolution is hoping to
39 take control of the hatchery and also they wanted to put a
40 stop to the hatchery operations in both Yukon and Kuskokwim
41 Rivers and the councils came up with an agreement and then
42 they signed the resolution.

43
44 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

45
46 INTERPRETER: Mary told Harry Wilde that
47 they've already passed these resolutions with a minor
48 revision to one of the resolutions.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

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1 INTERPRETER: The second part of my report
2 is -- we are also working on the project 2000 priorities.
3 I was not in agreement with the AVCP's priorities. Rather,
4 he was not in agreement with that the AVCP's priorities
5 were not included in that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think, Taylor, I wrote
8 you a letter concerning that, what's the reason of the
9 priorities, priorities not there. I think it would be good
10 if you.....

11
12 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 When the regional councils met in Anchorage in January,
14 this was the first round of projects for year 2000 and at
15 that time we had some gaps in some regions and it just so
16 happened that the AVCP proposals came in after the first
17 round went forward. So, in the package you just got now,
18 the March 17 project, round two of projects, by this time
19 the AVCP proposals have been evaluated and two proposals
20 are in the package recommended to the subsistence board
21 right now and some others will go forward next year. We've
22 actually worked closely with Jennifer to revise those
23 projects. In the package, Lester was looking at it a
24 minute ago, March 17th, round two projects, there are two
25 projects -- we need to get a copy of this from Terry.
26 That's the one. The AVCP projects are in there for now and
27 then Myron Naneng yesterday offered some resolutions that
28 would add additional projects for the next year. So I
29 think the simple answer is it was just a matter of the
30 timing and the deadlines. The AVCP projects came in after
31 the first round of proposals went before the councils in
32 January.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. It looks like
35 it's been taken care of already. It has been taken care of
36 already. I was not aware of that. He said it's okay.

37
38 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

39
40 INTERPRETER: Mary thanked the chairperson
41 to concur with the council's decisions.

42
43 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: Robert Nick said that we may
46 have discussed this yesterday. Requested moose season
47 extension. We were talking about that a little bit
48 yesterday, but we wanted to wait for you regarding this.
49 Yesterday, when we discussed this issue a little bit, we
50 wanted to allow harvest of moose for purposes of potlatches

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1 and other purposes, coming into gathering and feasting in
2 the villages, they talked about that, or maybe during
3 Orthodox Christmas or other festival activities. When I
4 called John Hanson, I discussed this issue with John
5 Hanson.

6
7 When we had teleconference over the telephone, I
8 was participating in that and they asked me is it okay to
9 allow extension of the moose season. My response was that
10 I did not want to agree upon that because I did not want to
11 make any decision without a council's concurrence and I
12 could not support that for that reason without council's
13 knowledge and supporting it by informal resolution.

14
15 When I called John Hanson, I informed him that we
16 must propose a resolution to request this so that it will
17 be approved by the RAC council of the Yukon Delta. The
18 moose subsistence users from a long time ago that has been
19 carried on since long, long time should be addressed and
20 explained in the resolution and approved by the council and
21 presented to the subsistence board. It would be better if
22 we worked together on this, including the surrounding
23 villages.

24
25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

26
27 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, (in Yup'ik).

28
29 INTERPRETER: John Andrew says that the
30 agenda item on the moose issue is a new issue that they
31 talked about last fall. When they talked about it
32 yesterday, they added the potlatches and the festival
33 activities. And after they heard the recommendations, the
34 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta National Wildlife Refuge biologists
35 did not want to consider that because of the low numbers of
36 moose in the delta. All of the prepared report I prepared
37 down in Bethel, there's one thing that may have been
38 rejected that was requested. We ask should we not extend
39 the moose season. One of them said, no, you must extend
40 the moose season. There were two members did not want to
41 comment toward that. They did not want to support that.
42 And because there seems to be a lot of members that were in
43 opposition to extend the moose season, it was not extended
44 at the time.

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary? (In Yup'ik)

47
48 MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

49
50 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, (in Yup'ik).

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1
2 INTERPRETER: We were waiting for Lester to
3 arrive yesterday and we were going to -- we never discussed
4 the Hooper Bay.....

5
6 MS. GREGORY: Project number 22, page 3.

7
8 INTERPRETER: Project number 22, I believe
9 -- page 3 rather.

10
11 MR. KRUEGER: Mr. Chairman, I'm Chuck
12 Krueger from the Office of Subsistence Management and we're
13 talking about project number 22 on the handout that was the
14 second round handout, the one that we talked about
15 yesterday evening.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

18
19 MR. KRUEGER: Okay. So this is a project.
20 It's a project that is joint between the Alaska Department
21 of Fish & Game and Hooper Bay. The idea is to do test
22 fishing at the Hooper Bay area and get an idea of the
23 strength of the salmon runs that are coming up along the
24 coast and moving north and to get an early indication of
25 the strength of those runs that might be coming in to the
26 Yukon River. So the consultations that have occurred have
27 been with, to my understanding, the Hooper Bay Traditional
28 Council and the city office and the Association of Village
29 Council Presidents, AVCP. The project is funded for three
30 years because of the type of data that are collected. It's
31 important to have more than one year to determine how
32 valuable it is. And that's the project and I welcome any
33 comments on it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think that project
36 would be very important mostly to the Yukon River because
37 last year we more like moderating how the Hooper Bay doing
38 on fish because just about one week or so the fish, after
39 you see them down -- after you hear them down there, they
40 come into Yukon River, at least to Black River. A couple
41 years ago Hooper Bay didn't get nothing, no fish. And then
42 we know in the Yukon River that we're not going to get very
43 much fish. So I think this test area here, it will be very
44 important.

45
46 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

49
50 MR. WILDE: This project here is an idea of

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1 mine that came to me about two, three years ago that I
2 happened to mention to Fish & Game and I'm glad that they
3 put it into proposal form. I'm a permanent fixture on the
4 agenda of the Hooper Bay City Council and the Hooper Bay
5 Traditional Council because I make all my reports to both
6 of them on whatever goes on in this advisory group and also
7 the Yukon Branch Fishing Association.

8
9 Another thing that would help Hooper Bay and in
10 that area is that we have absolutely no historical data on
11 what subsistence -- amount of salmon is being used for
12 subsistence. And in the event there should be an
13 allocation down the road, we need to find out from Hooper
14 Bay exactly how many fish we use in subsistence and how
15 many fish that we would need in the event of an allocation.
16 We totally support this. In fact, the people were having -
17 - they were a little resistant to this until I was able to
18 go down and explain to them why this was needed and that's
19 the reason why we got the approval from the city and the
20 traditional council. So we totally support this proposal,
21 but what we eventually visualize is possibly a test net
22 type of testing down in that area so we can count exactly
23 where our fish is coming from.

24
25 Last year, for instance, there was a hit of salmon
26 in Hooper Bay that was supposedly going into the Yukon
27 River. Those fish never showed up into the Yukon River.
28 We don't know where they went. But this data will be
29 helpful for the villages. Like I said, we support it down
30 in Hooper Bay.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.

33
34 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Yeah, I predict this project at Hooper Bay will be really
36 helpful for the biologists and the Department of Fish &
37 Game, but it has never been done in the past and once it
38 gets going, Hooper and Black River, both of those areas, it
39 will be really helpful for the ADF&G staff at Emmonak.
40 Every time we hear that Hooper Bay was catching fish, I'd
41 go up and I'd talk to the staff at Emol (ph), but it seemed
42 like they think that I was a dumb person when they look at
43 me. Then they ask me, well, how many days does the fish
44 come from Hooper to Black River, so I told them, and then
45 from Black River to Flat Island, but still they don't
46 believe -- I don't think they believe me. They probably
47 just think, well, hat the hell is this guy talking about.
48 And once this project gets into effect to work, then
49 they'll know and it will really help the runs that go into
50 the Yukon. If they don't, then we know they're going some

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1 place else.

2

3 MR. KRUEGER: Just so I can understand, do
4 you think that it would be valuable to also have the test
5 fishery at some other locations besides Hooper Bay. Is
6 that a good idea? Like Black River.

7

8 MR. HANSON: Yeah, I think Black River
9 there should be a test fishery because those -- once they
10 hit Black River, we know they're going into the Yukon.
11 Some of them, the Black River goes and it goes way back in
12 there and it comes up by Sheldon's Point, so the salmon
13 that go to Black River, they go by the coast and then they
14 go by that river. They go all the way back to Sheldon's
15 Point and then they keep going.

16

17 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

20

21 MR. WILDE: Another thing that might be
22 helpful is possibly a test net in the Kushunak. I've heard
23 first-hand accounts of people catching spawned out or ready
24 to spawn cohos in the Kushunak River and we don't know
25 where they go. Are they spawning in the lakes or what?
26 But we should have at least an idea of salmon going up
27 there, up the Kushunak River and how many. I don't know if
28 that's going to be feasible and it's just a suggestion.

29

30 MR. KRUEGER: It would seem like we could
31 even add to our list here, you know, some additional test
32 net fishery locations for 2001 possible projects.

33

34 MR. WILDE: Before we get into that
35 Kushunak area, I've got to talk with my people about this
36 and see what they think of it. That just kind of came out.

37

38 MR. KRUEGER: We'll just put it in in sort
39 of a general sense without identifying locations. One of
40 the things we are looking for is the comments from regional
41 advisory council on this particular project on Hooper Bay.
42 So my sense is that, in general, you're in agreement that
43 this is an important project to move ahead with?

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the Yukon River would
46 be, Hooper Bay would be areas.

47

48 MR. KRUEGER: Okay. Thank you.

49

50 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, when

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1 we reviewed the 2000 projects priorities we -- you know,
2 like we did in Anchorage, we answered these little bit
3 (indiscernible). We didn't do that. We just take the
4 consensus that we support the project and then they would
5 draw up the project.

6
7 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I, for one, would
8 like to get it on record that this group does support the
9 Hooper Bay subsistence test salmon.

10
11 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I second that
12 motion.

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
15 floor to support FY2000 subsistence fishery project,
16 Project 22. This project is test fishery at Hooper Bay.
17 The motion has been seconded. Is there any discussion
18 towards this proposal -- project?

19
20 MR. CHARLES: Question.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
23 called for. Willard, will you do roll call?

24
25 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

26
27 MR. McCANN: Yes.

28
29 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

30
31 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

32
33 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck?

34
35 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

36
37 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

38
39 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

40
41 MR. CHURCH: Fritz George excused. Robert
42 Nick?

43
44 MR. NICK: Yes.

45
46 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Wilde?

47
48 MR. WILDE: Yes.

49
50 MR. CHURCH: Thadeus Tikiun excused. John

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1 Hanson, Sr.?

2
3 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

4
5 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church? Yes. Johnny
6 Thompson, Sr. excused. Mary Gregory?

7
8 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

11
12 INTERPRETER: Mary asked what are they
13 voting for. And then FY2000 subsistence fishery project,
14 Project No. 22 is being voted on. Mary said yes.

15
16 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

19
20 MR. CHURCH: 10 yeses.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion is passed. FY2000
23 subsistence fishery project, Project No. 22 passed.

24
25 MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now we get in new
28 business, a proposal to change federal subsistence
29 regulations on taking of wildlife on federal public lands.

30
31 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair, do you want us to
32 proceed in the order they are in the book, starting with
33 No. 41, which is on page 5?

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Page 5?

36
37 MR. SHERROD: Section U.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Was that Proposal 41?

40
41 MR. SHERROD: Yes, please. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chair. Proposal 41 was submitted by Joshua Cleveland. It
43 would allow caribou to be taken from a boat moving under
44 power in Unit 18. Currently, federal subsistence
45 regulations contain a number of general statewide
46 prohibitions concerning the use of motorized vehicles.
47 General provisions forbid the taking of swimming auklets
48 (ph), bears, wolves or wolverines in most units also.

49
50 There are, however, a number of special provisions

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1 that will allow individuals to take animals from boats
2 moving under power and these include provisions in Unit 23,
3 25 and 26. In Unit 25, moose can be taken from power boats
4 or under power and swimming caribou can be taken in Units
5 23 and 26. The regulations about taking swimming caribou
6 are different from the regulations about taking animals in
7 general under boats under power.

8
9 In the past, the board has considered several
10 proposals asking for liberalization of using boats under
11 power to take animals. For example, in 1994, the board
12 allowed hunters to take caribou from moving boats in Unit
13 26 and allowed deer to be shot from boats in Unit 4. The
14 following year the board allowed hunters in Unit 25 to take
15 both caribou and moose from boats moving under power.

16
17 In '96, the Federal Subsistence Board modified the
18 general prohibition on the use of motorized vehicles,
19 including boats to take wildlife. Prior to '96, hunters
20 were required in most cases to stop the engine of the
21 motorized vehicle prior to shooting. These regulations --
22 the new regulations allowed the engine to be running as
23 long as motion had stopped.

24
25 I'll read the current regulations as they exist and
26 it appears on the top of page 8. If you're taking wildlife
27 for subsistence purposes, you may not take wildlife from a
28 motorized vehicle when the vehicle is in motion or from a
29 motorized driven boat when the boats progress from the
30 motor's power has not ceased. In other words, the boat
31 cannot be moving forward under power, except caribou may be
32 taken from a boat under power in Unit 23, 25 and 26 and
33 moose may be taken from a boat under power in Unit 25.

34
35 This new language, which was adopted in '96,
36 allowed individuals to maintain power to the boat,
37 stabilizing the boat, rather than having it drift
38 helplessly in the current, which had been a common concern
39 amongst subsistence users. That it was dangerous to
40 basically shut the motor off in the boat before you could
41 shoot. This new language accommodated a lot of the
42 concerns that had been expressed by subsistence hunters.
43 The federal board has not adopted all of the requested
44 proposals. It wanted to be able to shoot from a moving
45 boat. In Unit 22, for example, they rejected the proposal
46 in part because of the land make-up in Unit 22. There's
47 almost no federal land. And for fear of conflicts with
48 state regulations, which do not allow you to shoot from a
49 boat as long as the motor is running.

50

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1 Since adopting these regulations in '96, it has
2 accommodated a lot of the concerns. It's unclear, and I
3 wouldn't recognize Mr. Cleveland, so I'm not sure if he is
4 in the audience today, what advantages this provision would
5 have because currently, as proposed, it does not allow the
6 taking of swimming caribou as allowed in Unit 23 and 26,
7 where they can be taken and they can be taken with a Rimpar
8 (ph) cartridge.

9
10 It is the conclusion of the staff, however, to
11 support this request and allow the taking of caribou from a
12 boat moving under power in Unit 18. Justification for this
13 conclusion is based on the fact that the board has approved
14 comparable request in other units and it is not expected
15 that approving this request would have any significant
16 impact on the caribou population.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think I would like
19 to respond to what you're saying. Shutting down the motor,
20 it's okay for some hunters, not for subsistence people.
21 When you see any animal on the side of the river while you
22 travel, once you slow down a little bit or stop, that thing
23 just disappears. I think Mr. Cleveland feels that that is
24 a problem and I told him about it when we had a meeting in
25 Quinhagak how we do up there. I don't know why it would be
26 different when you see an animal, as long as that boat
27 travels straight and people are faced there and the person
28 who's going to shoot, ready to shoot, you've got a chance
29 to get something. Not only that, if you hit it some way
30 and didn't kill it, you have a chance to go up there and go
31 after it. I think that's a lot of idea, good idea. And
32 Mr. Cleveland is here. I'm going to give him an
33 opportunity to testify before you.

34
35 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair, one of the things
36 that would be really helpful for Mr. Cleveland to comment
37 on is if the intent was to shoot swimming caribou.

38
39 MR. WILDE: That was a question I was going
40 to have him clarify too, Mr. Chairman.

41
42 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Yup'ik)

43
44 INTERPRETER: I want to thank you for
45 bringing me up here to make a comment on this proposal. I
46 came up with this proposal because I feel that
47 (indiscernible). This one is in the regulations. In Unit
48 18, when the boat motor is in motion, we can't shoot
49 anything. When I see this regulation, I requested that we
50 be permitted to shoot any game while the boat is in motion.

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1 People in other areas, like Nome and Fairbanks and Pt.
2 Barrow, when those people from those areas go hunting, even
3 the boat is in motion, they can shoot anything they want.
4 It's not -- in our area, it is different. We can't shoot
5 while the boat is in motion. It's been expressed that this
6 is supported by some communities in our area and it's been
7 proposed that this will be included in the regulations, but
8 right now I feel that when (indiscernible) we have a
9 tendency to shoot the game even though the boat is in
10 motion. When we come to a point and see game and instinct
11 tells us to catch that game. Sometimes when we come to an
12 animal in the water, we wait until it gets to the land
13 before we kill it. We know that we shouldn't be too
14 cautious because the animals are in abundance right now and
15 (indiscernible) while we are not allowed to kill any animal
16 while the boat is in motion. If you.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mr. Cleveland, the man
19 next to you has a question about this proposal. Earlier or
20 what?

21
22 MR. SHERROD: No. The question I had was
23 whether the intent was to take caribou while they were
24 swimming.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, it wasn't his intent.
27 James Charles.

28
29 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, (in Yup'ik).

30
31 INTERPRETER: When we are out hunting,
32 sometimes it can't be avoided because we come -- before it
33 gets into the willows or into the woods, we have to act
34 really quick and have to shoot right away. It is the
35 difference between -- oh, when the animal is in the water,
36 it's still the same food. When it gets out of the water,
37 we can shoot it even though the boat is in motion. That's
38 why this regulation does not sound right. An animal is an
39 animal and hopefully we can do something about this
40 regulation here to correct it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Lester.

43
44 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm kind of
45 opposed to shooting anything that's swimming in the water.
46 Maybe it's because of what I was taught when I was growing
47 up about where to shoot the animal, but I think it would
48 have more -- it would pass the pallet of our regulators if
49 we left that catching in the water bit, you know. Catching
50 them from a moving boat gives you some advantage, but

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1 shooting them in the water where they're totally helpless
2 is, I think, a bit out of even our traditional way of
3 hunting. A long time ago, when there was millions of them,
4 you know, that's how they caught them, but these high-
5 powered rifles, I don't think they're made for shooting a
6 swimming caribou.

7
8 MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)

9
10 INTERPRETER: This one here needs to be
11 clarified.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy McCann.

14
15 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

16
17 INTERPRETER: This one here, I have a
18 tendency to agree with you that when an animal is on the
19 land, we can use it if it's intended to be used by
20 subsistence. If it supports hunting, then he didn't want
21 that. It's true that when you're in the wooded area, when
22 an animal goes into the woods, it's very hard to catch, but
23 while the animal is in the water, I don't think we should
24 bother that animal, but when it gets out of the water,
25 (indiscernible) catch the animal. I think, to me, you
26 know, I don't mind -- if it's going to be used by
27 subsistence, I don't see any problem, but if we're playing
28 with the animal and shoot it in the water, that's not going
29 to be good. He didn't see any problem shooting the animal
30 if it's on land while the boat is in motion.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert Nick.

33
34 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

35
36 INTERPRETER: While I was listening, this
37 proposal states that -- oh, this is being supported by
38 people among the area because they understand what's behind
39 it. He thinks it would be better not to shoot the animal
40 while it's in the water. He would like -- in Unit 26,
41 (indiscernible) to shoot the animal while it's in the
42 water. Even if the boat is in motion, I think it would be
43 okay to shoot the animal while it's on land, but if we say
44 to state (indiscernible) kill the animal while it's in the
45 water (indiscernible).

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester, go ahead.

48
49 MR. WILDE: I was going to make a
50 suggestion, but I'll pass.

00163

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

2
3 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

4
5 INTERPRETER: Mary made the motion.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
8 floor to accept the proposal 41 the way it's written. Is
9 there a second to the motion?

10
11 MR. McCANN: I second the motion.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy McCann seconded it.
14 Discussion?

15
16 MR. CHARLES: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
19 called for. Roll call. Willard.

20
21 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

22
23 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

24
25 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

26
27 MR. McCANN: Yes.

28
29 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

30
31 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

32
33 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

34
35 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

36
37 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

38
39 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

40
41 MR. CHURCH: Robert Nick?

42
43 MR. NICK: Yes.

44
45 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

46
47 MR. WILDE: Yes.

48
49 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson?

50

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1 MR. HANSON: Yes.

2

3 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Harry
4 Wilde, Sr.?

5

6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion passes. Any
9 opposed to the motion?

10

11 (No opposing responses)

12

13 MR. WILDE: I've got one question, Mr.
14 Chairman. Will the regulations be silent on the taking of
15 caribou in the water then in Proposal 41?

16

17 MR. SHERROD: Yes. Mr. Chair, I will add
18 in my analysis your concerns about taking in water and
19 clarify that that was not the intent and I will also add
20 statements about the general feeling that there is an
21 advantage of being able to have the boat traveling under
22 the motor's power to take the animal as it is allowed in
23 other units. So I will add that to this to make sure
24 that.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's understood.

27

28 MR. SHERROD: Yeah. The information you
29 have provided me today will go forward. Thank you very
30 much.

31

32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I may be out of order, but
33 for the record I'd like to note that we have no
34 representatives on the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.
35 On the prospective comments, they have not (indiscernible),
36 but they do have members of the advisory board of the Fish
37 & Game on our council. So I just want to make that note,
38 the absence of (indiscernible).

39

40 MR. NICK: That's too bad we're not able to
41 (indiscernible).

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We usually do try to give
44 everyone an opportunity, you know, to comment on proposals.
45 I thought the Department of Fish & Game was here, but it's
46 not here.

47

48 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

00165

1 MR. SHERROD: They will have a chance to
2 comment in front of the board, so they will have an
3 opportunity to express their concerns regarding this
4 proposal.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next proposal?

7
8 MR. SHERROD: The next proposal is Proposal
9 1. It starts on page 11. Proposal 1 was withdrawn. On page
10 13, there is a letter from the individual who made this
11 proposal trying to explain that it wasn't a joke and he did
12 not mean to offend anybody, but he did withdraw it. I
13 won't read the letter, but it is a sincere letter and this
14 was his request. And, with that, unless there's any
15 questions on Proposal 1, we can move forward to Proposal 2.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

18
19 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair. Pete DeMatteo,
20 Office of Subsistence Management. Mr. Chair, members of
21 the council. The analysis for Proposal 2 begins on page 19
22 of your books. This proposal was submitted by our office,
23 the Office of Subsistence Management, and this proposal
24 would align 25 of the federal trapping seasons that are
25 found throughout various parts of the state. With the
26 current trapping seasons, it would modify the boundaries of
27 one particular sub-unit.

28
29 The best way to present this analysis, if you would
30 follow along with me on page 20. There's a table on page
31 20, called Table 1, and essentially this table is divided
32 into four columns. The left column lists the units of each
33 proposed regulation change, then the next column to the
34 right lists the species of the particular animal that it
35 deals with. The next column to the right deals with the
36 current dates of the current federal seasons and then the
37 last column on the right lists the proposed dates. In
38 other words, what we want to change the date to. And the
39 reason this is because -- everything that's listed here,
40 except for one, the current federal regulations are more
41 restrictive than the state season. The state season allows
42 for more opportunity because the season is longer. So
43 rather than piecemeal this and do one at a time, we just
44 thought we'd attempt to lump them all together and save a
45 lot of paperwork.

46
47 To give you an example closer to home, go to Unit
48 18. If you look down the list there, Unit 18 beaver. The
49 current season for here is November 1st through June the
50 10th, whereas the new state season is year round. So what

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1 we're proposing is you adopt the year-round season. This
2 will provide less confusion for the user and will provide
3 more opportunity than the federal regulations.

4
5 The only one, the proposal at the top there, that
6 is not a season change. It's just a proposed change to a
7 boundary description. That's in Unit 4, the Chichagof
8 Islands. What we're doing is we propose we adopt the state
9 language of that particular sub-unit for marten.

10
11 In each and every case, these species that are
12 listed, the populations are considered healthy and no
13 adverse impacts to each of these is anticipated as a result
14 of adoption of this proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think that right now I
17 decide to take a 10 minute break. We've got some people
18 coming in, Paul Leeburg is coming and Steve Kovach is
19 coming. They should be here not very long.

20
21 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think we could
22 take care of this proposal, this one here. It's just a
23 matter of changing (indiscernible) in agreement. I would
24 like to move that the suggested proposal and the changes be
25 supported.

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proposal No. 2?

28
29 MR. WILDE: Yes.

30
31 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to
32 make a notation. Down in Unit 18, beaver year round, from
33 July 1 to June 30.

34
35 MR. WILDE: That was a proposal done by
36 (indiscernible). But, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move that
37 Proposal 2 be -- that we support Proposal 2.

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Second.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
42 floor to support Proposal 2, seconded by Mary Gregory. Is
43 there any discussion for Proposal 2?

44
45 MR. OWELTUCK: Question.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
48 called for. Willard.

49
50 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

00167

1 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

2

3 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

4

5 MS. GREGORY: He's out. He just came in.

6

7 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

8

9 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

10

11 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

12

13 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

14

15 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

16

17 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

18

19 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

20

21 MR. WILDE: Yes.

22

23 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson?

24

25 MR. HANSON: Yes.

26

27 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Billy

28 McCann?

29

30 MR. McCANN: Yes.

31

32 MR. CHURCH: Robert Nick?

33

34 MR. NICK: Yes.

35

36 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Motion carried. Any
39 opposed to this Proposal 2?

40

41 (No opposing responses)

42

43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Proposal 2 is passed.

44

45 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

46

47 INTERPRETER: In this place, there's a lot
48 of people who go hunting. This proposal is included in the
49 first things that was discussed. Now the beaver can be
50 hunted and killed any time of the year.

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1 MS. GREGORY: In Unit 18, Emmonak.

2
3 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

4
5 INTERPRETER: In this Unit 18, the beaver
6 can be killed year round. Sometimes the hunters make
7 comments that.....

8
9 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, the regulation,
10 if you go through it, states that beaver may be caught for
11 food all year round with a rifle for food.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

14
15 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, to address Lester
16 Wilde and also Mary Gregory's comment about the proposal
17 that was deferred from the previous year, that will be
18 covered in Proposal 40 here in a few minutes. That's why I
19 didn't mention it. But she's absolutely correct. There
20 was a proposal from Emmonak that was deferred, but we'll
21 cover that in another proposal.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before we go to another
24 one, we could take a break, but before we take a break, on
25 the record I'm going to say why I tried to get to Nunuk
26 (ph) for two reasons. He promised me he would let me have
27 beaver meat and a black fish. I don't see no black fish.

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You've got to go get
30 it yourself.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll take a 10-minute
33 break.

34
35 (Off record)

36 (On record)

37
38 MR. SHERROD: These are all customary and
39 traditional use proposals and they have all been before you
40 in previous years. The first Proposal 34 request caribou
41 determination in Unit 17 for residents of Akiachak and
42 Akiak, Proposal 35 request caribou determination in Unit
43 17A and B for all residents of Unit 18 and Proposal 38
44 request a change in the customary and traditional use
45 determination for moose in Unit 17 to include the villages
46 of Akiachak and Akiak.

47
48 These proposals have been before you previously.
49 The past, they have been deferred by the board. The reason
50 for deferring these proposals was that there was limited to

00169

1 no information about which part of the units residents of
2 these communities harvested caribou and moose. That is,
3 there wasn't a question that these weren't subsistence
4 communities and that these people that live in those areas
5 meet the criteria for sharing, traditional knowledge,
6 transferring and so on and that they use caribou and moose.
7 That was not a question. The question was where.

8
9 Since the proposals were deferred, some additional
10 research has taken place and the results of that research,
11 part of it conducted by Michael Koffing, part of it
12 conducted by your coordinator, John Andrew, have documented
13 the use areas. Those areas are mapped on pages 36, 37, 39,
14 40 and 41 and 42. I'm going to just go to the conclusions
15 and if there are questions, we can come back.

16
17 The conclusions were to -- and this is on the
18 bottom of page 45. What I'm reading is what the analysis
19 says the new determination should be. It's caribou in Unit
20 17A. That portion west of the Izavitnik (ph) River, Upper
21 Togiak Lake, Togiak Lake and the main course of the Togiak
22 River was to add the residents of Akiak, Akiachak, Tuluksak
23 and Napaskiak to the existing positive customary and
24 traditional use determination for caribou in Unit 17A.

25
26 For caribou in 17B, that portion of the Togiak
27 National Wildlife Refuge within Unit 17B, add the residents
28 of Akiak, Akiachak, Tuluksak and Napaskiak. For moose in
29 Unit 17A and 17B, add the residents of Akiak and Akiachak.

30
31 So, while the conclusions do not support adding
32 these communities to all the areas requested, it does
33 expand the existing customary and traditional use
34 determination based on the information provided to allow
35 these individuals to use portions of Unit 17 for taking
36 moose and caribou. With that, I would entertain questions.
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, any questions?
40 Mary.

41
42 MS. GREGORY: I wanted to ask you, you said
43 something about not adding who to what?

44
45 MR. SHERROD: The original -- one of the
46 original proposals requested adding all the residents of
47 Unit 18.

48
49 MS. GREGORY: Not specifically all, the
50 four villages.

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1 MR. SHERROD: No, all of them. Not the
2 villages addressed. Akiak and Akiachak, two of the
3 proposals were specific to those two communities and
4 Tuluksak and Napaskiak were added based on the information
5 that came forward in conducting these studies.

6
7 MS. GREGORY: Thank you.

8
9 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

10
11 INTERPRETER: If we remember, winter season
12 extension of the winter moose subsistence season was during
13 the cold spell of the winter and there was a request for
14 extension, but we did not -- the majority of the council
15 did not want extension of the moose season because of the
16 fact that there are a lot of caribou available and because
17 of the declining or low numbers of the moose population
18 levels, the council members did not approve of that.
19 Around three step area or below that, that's hunting area,
20 not only Akiak, Akiachak, Tuluksak, Napaskiak, but other
21 people from the coastal villages, like down in the coast,
22 like mouth of the Kuskokwim, those villages come up and
23 hunt caribou. And because the moose population levels are
24 declining at this time, you should not consider approving
25 of the proposals. I don't have any problem with the
26 proposal, but sometime, you know, they share some of the
27 meat that they have.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have a state
30 representative here? Not for game. James.

31
32 MR. CHARLES: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 INTERPRETER: James Charles. He said that
35 he's in favor of Proposal 34 because not only those three
36 communities who are requesting recognition under -- request
37 to be qualified to hunt in that respective unit are not the
38 only ones that hunt in that area. There are other villages
39 that goes in that area to hunt and to hunt moose and
40 caribou.

41
42 And also 34 and 35, the Tuluksak, Akiak and
43 Napaskiak are not the only ones that hunt in that area.
44 How about 38, is that a grouped proposal?

45
46 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

47
48 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair, this was simply to
49 add these communities to the existing determination. It's
50 not only those communities. It's the communities that

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1 already have C&T for these units and add these. I can read
2 the existing C&T determinations if you would like.

3

4 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

5

6 MR. SHERROD: Okay. Caribou Unit 17A, that
7 portion west of the Izivitnik River, Upper Togiak Lake,
8 Togiak Lake and the main course of the Togiak River, its
9 residents of Goodnews Bay, Platinum, Quinhagak, Eek,
10 Tuntutuliak and Napaskiak. The conclusions of the analysis
11 would be to add the residents of Akiak, Akiachak, Tuluksak
12 and Napaskiak -- actually, Tuluksak and Napaskiak are
13 already there -- to that determination.

14

15 The same is true with Unit 17A and B. Those
16 portions north and west of a line beginning from the Unit
17 18 boundary to the northwest end of Nivuk Lake to a south
18 point of Upper Togiak Lake and the northeast to northern
19 point of Nuyakuk Lake, northeast to a point where the Unit
20 17 boundary intersects the Shotgun Hills is residents of
21 Kwethluk and then to add to that you would have the
22 residents of Akiak, Akiachak, Tuluksak and Napaskiak.

23

24 For caribou in Unit 17B, that portion of the Togiak
25 National Wildlife Refuge within Unit 17B, we now have
26 residents of Bethel, Goodnews Bay, Platinum, Quinhagak,
27 Eek, Tuntutuliak, Napaskiak and residents of Akiak and
28 Akiachak.

29

30 For moose in Unit 17A and B, we have Goodnews Bay
31 and Platinum, residents of Kwethluk, residents of Akiak and
32 Akiachak, and in B and C you'd also have, for B, Nondalton,
33 Levelock, Goodnews Bay and Platinum.

34

35 If you adopted the recommendations of the staff,
36 you would add these communities to the existing C&T. If
37 there are other communities that should be added, we could
38 put a new proposal in next fall and add them. A positive
39 action on this proposal would add those communities. They
40 have been asking to be included for about four years --
41 five years, John says. Adopting this would at least give
42 them an opportunity and we can build on the new and
43 improved C&T and add other communities as evidence is
44 brought forth and the request is brought forth to us.

45

46 MR. HANSON: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hanson.

49

50 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our

00172

1 area you mentioned, all of Unit 18, does that include Unit
2 18 that's on the Yukon (indiscernible)?

3
4 MR. SHERROD: It would include Stebbins and
5 St. Michael's, everything that's in Unit 18.

6
7 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Les.

10
11 MR. WILDE: Do I have the floor, yet?

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: You have.

14
15 MR. WILDE: Okay, thank you. I'd like to
16 move that we support staff proposal on 34, 35 and 38.

17
18 MR. HANSON: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
21 floor to support 34, 35, 38. Second by John Hanson.
22 Willard.

23
24 MR. SHERROD: Mr. Chair, was that to accept
25 the staff recommendation on the proposals?

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

28
29 MR. SHERROD: The staff recommendation?

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

32
33 MR. SHERROD: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.

36
37 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

38
39 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

40
41 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

42
43 MR. McCANN: Yes.

44
45 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

46
47 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

48
49 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?
50

00173

1 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

2
3 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

4
5 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

6
7 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

8
9 MR. WILDE: Yes.

10
11 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson?

12
13 MR. HANSON: Yes.

14
15 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Robert
16 Nick?

17
18 MR. NICK: Yes.

19
20 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Staff recommendation
23 is supported by yea -- yes, No. 40 proposal. Wait. We're
24 having a little bit problem with our recorder. Ten minutes
25 break.

26
27 (Off record)

28 (On record)

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

31
32 INTERPRETER: What Chairperson explained to
33 the audience is all of the meetings are recorded by
34 recorder in case there's some problem that the RAC's
35 encounter.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now we start with our
38 proposals again and we start on Proposal 40.

39
40 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, Proposal 40
41 analysis begins at page 52. That proposal was submitted by
42 the Togiak Traditional Council and it's divided in three
43 parts. The first part would extend the trapping season for
44 Unit 17A for beaver. The season ends on February 28 and
45 they requested the season be extended to close on March
46 31st.

47
48 Mr. Chair, this part of the proposal you've already
49 taken action on in Proposal 2, which was the statewide
50 proposal which have all of 17 for beaver and you supported

00174

1 that the federal season align with state proposals March
2 31st, which is essentially the same thing that Togiak
3 Traditional Council is asking for. So, if you take action
4 in support of this, you'll be endorsing again the previous
5 proposal and also supporting the Togiak proposal.

6
7 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I want to make
8 an additional request that beaver dams be destroyed for
9 restoration of habitat. Can you add that in there?

10
11 MR. HANSON: I second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the
14 floor to amend this proposal. The amendment is to get rid
15 of beaver curtain, whatever you call them.

16
17 MS. GREGORY: Beaver dams.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Beaver dams or curtains or
20 whatever.

21
22 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

25
26 MR. WILDE: That should go under another
27 proposal because (indiscernible).

28
29 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, I think what
30 Lester Wilde is suggesting is they submit a separate
31 proposal that would deal with destruction of beaver dams.

32
33 MR. WILDE: (Indiscernible).

34
35 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, I have a
36 question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.

39
40 MR. CHURCH: Would that separate proposal
41 address that issue but also be under a category of predator
42 control because it indirectly affects concerns of spawning
43 areas or (indiscernible) habitat for fish?

44
45 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, what he's
46 proposing is that beavers are being designated as a
47 predator, but under current regulations, beaver isn't
48 (indiscernible) prey upon salmon or (indiscernible).

49
50 MR. CHURCH: Also, you know, the dams that

00175

1 are blocking off critical spawning areas -- you know,
2 there's some dams located in areas where it might not be a
3 spawning area for certain fish species, so that needs to be
4 defined a little more clearly.

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (In Yup'ik)

7

8 INTERPRETER: This gentleman says that
9 beaver are not only harming fish species only. The scenic
10 areas of the tributaries such as drainages and creeks,
11 they're wiped out of any trees. Even marsh areas, you
12 know, the beaver are wiping out the trees and even damaging
13 the land as well. So they're not only affecting the fish
14 and wildlife habitat.

15

16 MR. WILDE: (Indiscernible).

17

18 MR. ANDREW: (Indiscernible).

19

20 MR. WILDE: The original to adopt.

21

22 MS. GREGORY: With the addition. (In
23 Yup'ik)

24

25 INTERPRETER: Mary explained her motion.

26

27 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

28

29 INTERPRETER: John said that this only deal
30 with the proposal and Mary made a motion to add beaver
31 dams, but anything relating to beaver dams must be dealt
32 with as a separate proposal. But what I wanted to add is
33 that those of us who are hunters, subsistence hunters, we
34 have unwritten laws from our elders. We must not do
35 anything about -- rather we must not do anything to beaver
36 dams because it's disrespectful to the species. We have
37 unwritten laws not to damage any of the beaver dams.

38

39 MR. NICHOLAS: (In Yup'ik)

40

41 INTERPRETER: The gentleman says, as I sit
42 here listening to all of the agenda it's better to go ahead
43 and approve what is being proposed by the local Native
44 people. I began to harvest and hunt and fish since I was
45 very young. When there's a lot of trees -- you know, in
46 the areas where there's a lot of trees, beaver dams drain
47 and then they flood some areas, but for the species such as
48 black fish, the beavers are damaging -- the beavers are
49 contributing to the decline of black fish in some certain
50 areas. Whenever there are beaver dams being built in the

00176

1 important black fishing areas, it would cause a decline of
2 the black fish. I hear also when the beaver reaches the
3 sea, there will be salmon.

4
5 Mr. Nicholas says that speaking of beaver issue,
6 he's one of the YKC health board members from Kasigluk. He
7 said that they learned by studies that were being done by
8 health corporations that beavers are also contributing to
9 the disease and also contributes to the cancer causes and
10 all other beaver fever and others. If you drink water from
11 near the beaver lodges, you know, you will have some
12 problem with your stomach. It could even cause health
13 problems. And when -- personal experiences they have is
14 that, you know, when you're on the -- the beaver refuse,
15 you know, causes darkening of the waters and causes a lot
16 of problems, health problems.

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion?

19
20 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy.

23
24 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

25
26 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann says that those
27 of us who live here in the Bush, we know exactly what we
28 experience and we here what the locals say and we should
29 also deal with the beaver issue and we should not deal with
30 beaver dams as a special issue, but we recognize --
31 recognizing it's contributing to problems such as spawning
32 areas and listening to all other studies and observations,
33 we should accept the proposal. We should not oppose any
34 proposed proposal by any group of people or locals and we
35 realize what we hear, but not doing anything to the beaver
36 dams is important, but we must deal with it. We should put
37 it down -- we should put them down as the same proposal.

38
39 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, before we get too
40 far off the subject, I'd like to move that we support
41 Proposal 40.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: There's already a motion.

44
45 MR. WILDE: I'm sorry. Question.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was a question on
48 No. 40. We discussed. The question is being called for.
49 Willard.

50

00177

1 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

2
3 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

4
5 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

6
7 MR. McCANN: Yes.

8
9 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

10
11 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

12
13 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

14
15 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

16
17 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

18
19 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

20
21 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

22
23 MR. WILDE: I'm a little mixed up. Did I
24 hear somebody say with the amendment or as the original
25 motion?

26
27 MS. GREGORY: The original motion was with
28 the amendment.

29
30 MR. WILDE: With the amendment?

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: My understanding is I
33 thought they were going to vote on Proposal 40 and make a
34 proposal for beaver dams.

35
36 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, my motion was for
37 the initial Proposal No. 40 without the amendment. That's
38 the way I understood it and that's why I called for the
39 question.

40
41 MS. GREGORY: There was already a motion,
42 Mr. Wilde.

43
44 MR. WILDE: I oppose.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: Okay. Thank you.

47
48 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I just want to
49 help out a little because I served as a board member using
50 Robert's Rules of Orders for procedures. I understand that

00178

1 you have a parliamentarian for sergeant-at-arms in this
2 group. I don't know if I'm wrong, but when anything is
3 revised, I think it would be better to accept it as
4 revised, not as amended, because that's the proper
5 procedure for dealing with something, unless you make a
6 motion to accept that whatever is proposed to you and then
7 you make another motion to amend it, then you would have
8 two motions. If you revise something and then put it on
9 this paper and vote on it, the motion is accepted, whatever
10 is being proposed to you, as revised. I don't know if
11 (indiscernible).

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

14
15 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

16
17 INTERPRETER: What Alex commented is true.
18 We have to follow the rules and Robert's Rules of Order.
19 We have to -- we need to revise that motion and that could
20 be used as our motion. This was brought up by Lester,
21 seconded by Billy McCann. They come up with another
22 motion, then they will be out of order.

23
24 MR. NICK: We need to take care of the
25 previous motion to adopt Proposal 40. (In Yup'ik)

26
27 INTERPRETER: While I have the floor, I'd
28 like to say a few words. In this area, over 20 years I
29 have been getting mostly fur-bearing animals and I used to
30 go camping and I watch all the people and this area that we
31 used to hunt fur-bearing animals are no longer good because
32 of the beaver dams and so forth and this is affecting all
33 of us who are living in this area. John Nicholas brought
34 this up, important, septic, and we need to get together and
35 help each other out in dealing with this beaver problem,
36 even though there's language added to this one, it's a part
37 of the motion.

38
39 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, whether I'm in
40 order or not, since everybody is doing it, my thought is if
41 we would submit a different proposal for that
42 (indiscernible) area, it would give that proposal a little
43 more strength as a proposal by itself. Then that proposal
44 can have monies earmarked for that proposal because it will
45 take (indiscernible) to go out there and restore the
46 habitat of those fish. And Proposal 40 submitted by Togiak
47 Traditional Council to extend trapping season in sub-
48 district 17 for beaver from November 10th to February 28th
49 to November 10th to March 30 and shorten the trapping
50 season in Unit 18.

00179

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Myron.

2

3 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, (in Yup'ik).

4

5 INTERPRETER: This Proposal 40 is
6 pertaining to beaver harvest. This beaver dam haggling is
7 another matter. We know it's something (indiscernible).
8 When we're talking about (indiscernible), sometimes it does
9 not affect certain abilities. We must be cautious and even
10 some of those animals don't come to our area. We look at
11 different animals as pets, but our traditional teachings
12 say we need to respect whatever animal is provided to us
13 and when you come to this problem, you think of the people
14 who might misunderstand what we're trying to do. We should
15 be cautious when we're dealing with this issue and it
16 should be separate.

17

18 MR. WASSILLIE: Mr. Chairman, (in Yup'ik).

19

20 INTERPRETER: Beaver has been talked about
21 how you can (indiscernible) in reducing the population.
22 It's true that the beaver dams have to be destroyed, but
23 the beaver is a very active animal. They can replace and
24 repair or build other dams. I am talking about the
25 (indiscernible). Maybe it's a traditional teaching to
26 respect our dams, but a year ago I set our net, our king
27 salmon net. The beaver was available, but didn't come to
28 my net. It didn't take too long to build and I would catch
29 beaver, but I wouldn't leave them out there, but I would
30 bring them home, skin them. During the fall time, they
31 have very good meat, before winter, before it gets cold,
32 but after freeze-up, the taste changes. Before it gets
33 cold, they eat the vegetation. That's why they have good
34 meat. Now, we talked about how we -- if you want to reduce
35 the population of the -- catch the beaver, you can check
36 the king salmon net and you can vary the fish and vary the
37 beaver if you want to reduce the population because they
38 have no money violation anymore.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

41

42 INTERPRETER: I totally understand this
43 proposal. We've got to keep this motion just the way it
44 is. This amendment should be separate. That's why I
45 brought this up. Bill.

46

47 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: I'm going to ask you a
50 question, all of you people that are in here.

00180

1 MR. McCANN: Can you give me an answer or
2 not? What's more important, the beaver or the human life?
3 (In Yup'ik)

4
5 INTERPRETER: That man said there's a
6 sickness that's caused by beavers. Which one is more
7 important, the human being or the beaver? That's what we
8 are talking about. To me, human being is more important
9 than the beaver. Sickness prevention is very important.

10
11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we're out of
13 order. We're on a motion. Mary, go ahead.

14
15 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, (in Yup'ik).

16
17 INTERPRETER: Mary's is correcting what she
18 came up with.

19
20 MS. GREGORY: I withdrew the motion I made
21 with the additional wording. If my second concurs with me.

22
23 MR. WILDE: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'd
24 like to move that we adopt Proposal No. 40 as is.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: This will carry through
27 just the way I said earlier. Proposal 40, there's been a
28 motion and a second. Willard, roll call.

29
30 MS. GREGORY: To withdraw the motion.

31
32 MR. CHURCH: This is a motion to withdraw
33 the motion.

34
35 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, the motion was to
36 adopt 40 as is.

37
38 MS. GREGORY: Second.

39
40 MR. WILDE: Seconded by Mary now.

41
42 MS. GREGORY: Now. Disregard that withdraw
43 the motion.

44
45 MR. CHURCH: Okay.

46
47 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, if I may jump in
48 here real quick. It's obvious there's a lot of strong
49 concerns about the effects of beaver passing fish and fish
50 passage and also how this affects your lives. This has

00181

1 been well played out here. If I can add a little clarity
2 here. She's withdrawn. You first have to finish up that
3 order of business. And I guess there was a second on that
4 motion. Now, does everybody agree at this table that it's
5 okay to withdraw that motion?

6
7 MS. GREGORY: My second concurs with me and
8 we all understand what's happening now.

9
10 MR. DeMATTEO: Okay. So now next in order
11 of business would be Mr. Wilde's motion. But before I sit
12 back here, understand that this book with all these
13 regulations in it essentially deals with seasons and
14 harvest levels, when you can take a beaver and how many.
15 Her motion was to provide for the destruction of beaver
16 dams. That generally, in the framework of our regulations,
17 doesn't apply to alteration of habitat. I would suggest
18 the staff maybe offer that in your annual report to the
19 board. The staff, I don't think we know how to make it fit
20 in here in the framework of present regulations. I'll just
21 offer that.

22
23 MR. CHURCH: I wanted to make one comment.
24 I used the wrong term earlier. When I said predator, I
25 meant pest control. And I think what you're speaking about
26 with destruction of habitat or habitat alterations, you
27 know, if the beaver is a nuisance and people feel strongly
28 about it, there seems to be an area that they can work with
29 and that could be under pest control. Just to make that
30 clear.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard, roll call.

33
34 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

35
36 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

37
38 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

39
40 MR. McCANN: Yes.

41
42 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

43
44 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

45
46 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

47
48 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

49
50 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

00182

1 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

2
3 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

4
5 MR. WILDE: Yes.

6
7 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson?

8
9 MR. HANSON: Yes.

10
11 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Robert
12 Nick?

13
14 MR. NICK: Yes.

15
16 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

17
18 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. The yes's have it,
19 Proposal 40. I think we learned a lesson here that we need
20 to have a Robert's Rule of Order available every time when
21 we have a meeting. I didn't have my bag. It's in the
22 airplane. All that stuff is in the airplane. But try to
23 have a -- try to keep a good record. We need to have a
24 Robert's Rule of Order available every time when we have a
25 meeting.

26
27 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
28 make a motion that we direct our staff to make sure that
29 whenever there's a change in the state regulations they let
30 us know as a rule to the RAC committee.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: That could be a motion.
33 Who second it?

34
35 MR. OWELTUCK: Second.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion?

38
39 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

40
41 INTERPRETER: She's translating her motion
42 in Yup'ik.

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Discussion?

45
46 MR. HANSON: Question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
49 called for. Voice vote. All in favor say aye.

50

00183

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.

4

5 (No opposing responses)

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carries.

8

9 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair, we still have to
10 deal with the second part of Proposal 40 that's dealing
11 with Unit 18.

12

13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Make a new proposal?

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: No, no. Proposal 40 has two
16 parts. You just dealt with the Unit 17A part, so we have
17 to move on to the Unit 18 portion of Proposal 40.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. DeMATTEO: The second part of Proposal
22 40 again is page 52 of your book. Again, it's submitted by
23 the Togiak Traditional Council. This would change the
24 existing trapping season for beavers in Unit 18. There's
25 also a third proposal which was submitted by Emmonak last
26 year and it was deferred by the Federal Subsistence Board
27 in May of 1999. The Alaska Board of Game action had a
28 similar proposal. The Board of Game, in it's fall 1999
29 meeting, adopted a no-close season, no bag limit for Unit
30 18 under both trapping and hunting seasons and also no
31 ceiling requirements for beaver. The state also redefined
32 beaver as a fur animal at their January 2000 meeting. This
33 would allow hunters to now harvest beaver under a new
34 license.

35

36 Mr. Chair, what the Board of Game did essentially
37 was make a year-round season and it's also no limit and it
38 also drops the ceiling requirement for beaver, which is
39 much more liberal than the federal regulations. So, what
40 the staff recommends is that you align with the new Board
41 of Game action for Unit 18.

42

43 MR. WILDE: Harry, do you remember some
44 meetings back when we held this approval of this proposal
45 because the state had a proposal that was similar to the
46 one that we had here and the request by staff was to hold
47 on until such time that the state passed that regulation?
48 I think the state's already done that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

00184

1 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: The state has fixed this just
4 the way you said earlier and those -- even though it could
5 be open year round, but then we have to have a license.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.

8

9 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
10 Board of Game already passed the one proposal that came
11 from Emmonak, the one that we've been deferring for how
12 many meetings now, three, two? So the state regulation
13 will say June 1 to July 30, a full year, and with firearms.

14

15 MR. DeMATTEO: Mr. Chair. Mr. Hanson is
16 correct. The Board of Game now designates beaver in Unit
17 18 as a fur animal and also for bear; so, therefore, both
18 hunting and trapping regulations apply under state
19 regulations for beaver in Unit 18, which means a year-round
20 season, no harvest limit and also they dropped the ceiling
21 requirement for beaver in that particular unit. This is a
22 much more liberal regulation than existing federal
23 regulation or with the Togiak Traditional Council
24 recommends and also the third proposal last year from
25 Emmonak requested. So the staff recommends you go with the
26 recent Board of Game action, which is listed on page 52.
27 What you get is year round, no harvest limit of beaver in
28 Unit 18.

29

30 MR. HANSON: So, in order to have this in
31 effect, this council has to vote on the second proposal.

32

33 MR. OWELTUCK: On federal land.

34

35 MR. DeMATTEO: On federal land in Unit 18.

36

37 MR. OWELTUCK: I make a motion to move to
38 accept the proposals for A and B.

39

40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there a second to the
41 motion?

42

43 MR. NICK: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Robert Nick.

46 Discussion?

47

48 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 INTERPRETER: Is this Unit 18, is this

00185

1 going to be included? What about the proposal?

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

4 This is included in the proposal. In this paragraph.

5

6 MR. CHARLES: Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore discussion?

9

10 MR. WILDE: Question.

11

12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been

13 called for. Roll call.

14

15 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

16

17 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

18

19 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

20

21 MR. McCANN: Yes.

22

23 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

24

25 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

26

27 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

28

29 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

30

31 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

32

33 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

34

35 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

36

37 MR. WILDE: Yes.

38

39 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson, Sr.?

40

41 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

42

43 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Robert

44 Nick?

45

46 MR. NICK: Yes.

47

48 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

49

50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Motion passes.

00186

1 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Bill.

4
5 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

6
7 INTERPRETER: I'd like to make a motion
8 concerning the beaver dam. We need to get this out of the
9 way. We can't put this off. I'd like to get a staff to
10 get (indiscernible). This is his motion.

11
12 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

13
14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor, do you hear that?
15 There's a motion on the floor and a second to make a
16 proposal for a beaver dam. I don't know how we're going to
17 word it, beaver dam.

18
19 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

22
23 MR. WILDE: I think the problem stems from
24 the ones that are not being used. We're talking about the
25 beaver dams that have been abandoned?

26
27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Go ahead.

28
29 MR. NICHOLAI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
30 think what you guys are trying to get at here is to protect
31 the black fish and white fish. You've got a lot of beaver
32 down there. I suggest that you wreck all the beaver dams
33 in the spring and in the fall because we saved our white
34 fish by demolishing, sometimes even blowing up some beaver
35 dams just to get our white fish back, so it would be better
36 just to destroy them all. Right before the ice creates, it
37 will be harder for them to build it back. Once you do
38 that, they'll have a harder time to keep the water down.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Go ahead,
41 Taylor.

42
43 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
44 Pete has actually already reminded us of the history of
45 Federal Subsistence Board actions. The Federal Subsistence
46 Board has authority to set harvest limits and seasons for
47 subsistence harvests of animals. So habitat management,
48 changing habitat or restoring habitat, that's not an area
49 where the Federal Subsistence Board has responsibilities.
50 So your council already mentioned this ongoing problem of

00187

1 beaver dams in your annual report.

2

3 Again, Pete said maybe that's the best place to
4 talk about habitat and beaver dam problems in the annual
5 report. If you pass a motion asking for control of beavers
6 in order to restore fish habitat, the Federal Subsistence
7 Board so far, for nine years, always said that's not our
8 area of jurisdiction, that's not our area of
9 responsibility. So I think it might end up being kind of -
10 - it won't go anywhere if you pass that motion and bring it
11 up to the Federal Board.

12

13 I think Pete's advice was actually pretty good. If
14 you focus on the annual report to identify these other
15 issues, then the others, like refuge managers or the
16 Department of Fish & Game, other resource managers could
17 know about your concerns and could think about how to work
18 together to address those. But the Federal Subsistence
19 Board doesn't have jurisdiction on habitat management
20 questions.

21

22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

23

24 INTERPRETER: We need to listen to our
25 advisor.

26

27 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

28

29 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) (No translation)

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Myron.

32

33 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman, Regional
34 Advisory Council. (In Yup'ik)

35

36 INTERPRETER: That statement earlier that
37 was stated, he can't agree with what's been stated. When
38 people want to do something and work on some problem,
39 people can get together. He can't understand why this
40 issue should be denied when it's a problem. It is the
41 responsibility of the Fish & Wildlife Service to protect
42 and take care of what's provided to us. They are managers
43 of our land. Habitat should be taken care of by them.

44

45 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (In Yup'ik)

46

47 INTERPRETER: Thank you for giving me this
48 opportunity to talk. The teachings of our elders, this is
49 our land. We are the aboriginal people of this land.
50 There is nothing impossible. If we need to take care of

00188

1 something, fix something, it is our responsibility to fix
2 it. There's nothing impossible. Now, thinking that way,
3 we need to take care of this problem because it is
4 affecting our subsistence way of life. Subsistence way of
5 life is ours because we don't have money to live on. We
6 have been utilizing this subsistence. Some days it's very
7 hard to buy anything from the stores. And if we don't have
8 food stamps, we have no choice but to go out and go get
9 what's available to us out there. We have to think of our
10 children and our grandchildren and we cannot take the food
11 away from them.

12
13 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I believe John Berlin is
14 next.

15
16 MR. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

17
18 INTERPRETER: Thank you. I am a hunter
19 ever since I was a young boy. I know what's out there and
20 I know how to go get what's being -- mink, muskrat, they
21 were our livelihood or they were a means of obtaining
22 money. And we have been combing this land for many years,
23 ever since we were -- this beaver came to our land and we
24 know that they make dams because of the water, so that they
25 have water. And when we trap beaver, we hope to come to
26 beaver dams and trap beaver. And when the water overcomes
27 the area, sometimes beaver dams are washed away. So I am
28 supporting what you are doing too lessen the beaver
29 population. And we are still on the motion and we have to
30 come up with a proposal to destroy the beaver dams.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

33
34 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) (No translation)

35
36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

37
38 INTERPRETER: And it is also seconded. Do
39 we have any further discussion on this motion?

40
41 MR. OWELTUCK: Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

42
43 INTERPRETER: Unit 18 (indiscernible).
44 According to this proposal in Unit 18, even he can shoot
45 any beaver he wants. We can shoot any time of the year and
46 clear up as much as we want.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Phillip.

49
50 MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

1 INTERPRETER: I was going to say this
2 yesterday. First of all, I want to say that Fish &
3 Wildlife workers come to our area to explain this
4 situation and sometimes we -- some don't accept the
5 activities of the Fish & Wildlife Service, but we have been
6 taught from the start that we should work with people even
7 though we don't agree with or don't respect our people. We
8 should work with them as much as we can if they are dealing
9 with what's being done. If we listen, we will understand
10 better of what the Fish & Wildlife Service. Sometimes it's
11 pointed to us that some species of birds and game
12 population is going down and they warn us when this is
13 happening.

14
15 He has been preserving the thinking that what he
16 has seen in the past, it's very true that the elders teach
17 us what -- on how to take care of people. And Fish &
18 Wildlife Service's advice would not be ignored. Just
19 shortly after that epidemic he was born and he knew that
20 the people before him were dying of starvation. I am not
21 saying that we should prior use everything what we have
22 been taught, but then we can each be -- maybe we need to
23 follow our conscious. Years ago beaver was utilized as a
24 means of making money and even though the beaver was quite
25 a ways away people make enough with two catches to make
26 money.

27
28 Right now these beavers -- he can't understand why
29 some of these animals are migrating to the area. He can't
30 understand why the beaver are migrating and invading our
31 area, including some of the fish going down to the main
32 river. Many years ago he never saw a beaver, but right now
33 things are -- even if we talk about the beaver population,
34 no matter what we do, the populations will not decrease.
35 We think that the beaver is not good for the area. That
36 decreases the species, the (indiscernible) species of fish.

37
38 Towards the end of February, there is usually a lot
39 of -- less fish, but then this year that didn't happen.
40 This year less fish that was caught. Also, these black
41 fish is usually plentiful, but this year we could tell that
42 we were not catching as much as we used to. Black fish is
43 usually -- it usually depends on the water and no matter
44 how thick the ice is, they'll come up. Those people that
45 trap them know where to get them and when to get them and
46 they all these years said that food -- scarcity of food
47 hasn't happened. And these kind of events do not come
48 unless somebody provides who and where, how and where these
49 incidents are happening.

00190

1 The way I think (indiscernible) coming from me. I
2 know that you can -- no matter what you do, even if you
3 break up a dam, you know, you're not going to decrease the
4 population. It's up to the Creator to handle these
5 animals. At least it's not getting scarce.
6 (Indiscernible) increase are no longer there. Down there -
7 - down where I'm from, in the river, there's always beaver
8 houses. Every bend there's the house. I know that these
9 beavers are affecting the fish population. Beaver waste is
10 not good for human beings and resource. Even the fish
11 checkers -- we used to go -- we used to go upriver to catch
12 fish, but right the fish is further down closer to the
13 ocean.

14
15 That's why I think I can't make up my mind, but you
16 can go ahead and do what you need to do. But it's okay to
17 do that, but it's not Fish & Game's responsibility. It
18 should be able to send somebody to sites of beaver coming
19 to our area. When the fish is going to become scarce, the
20 interior animals come closer to the coast and knock off the
21 other food sources. People who have experienced these
22 incidents -- and when these kinds of events happen, they
23 (indiscernible) of fish that's available in the rivers and
24 lakes. When a person has nothing in his stomach, there's
25 no comparison to other sicknesses that's in the body. The
26 bear eats berries.

27
28 Now, I wanted to say this, maybe it's not true, but
29 I don't make up stories, but I've heard Fish & Wildlife,
30 Faye Mortenson (ph), Fish & Wildlife workers, Alaska
31 Department of Fish & Game, your work is important. If
32 you're doing it right, you will be supported by everybody.
33 It's good that these Fish & Game and Fish & Wildlife
34 Service are working closely with resource utilizers. We
35 should start working together. We should work together,
36 get your minds and acts together to work for one purpose.

37
38 I keep reminding you that this is a decision by our
39 Creator. No matter what you do, nothing is going to
40 happen. What happens -- what's causing -- we need to think
41 of all this and sometimes -- right now he's wondering
42 what's causing those fish that are fresh water fish are
43 swimming in the salt water. It's not a usual thing. Fresh
44 water fish can't survive in the salt water and salt water
45 fish usually (indiscernible). Right now they are starting
46 to catch inland fish out of the coast. So, to him,
47 (indiscernible) dam. Take care of these -- beaver dams can
48 be taken care of. But (indiscernible). No matter what we
49 do, this won't change.

50

00191

1 This year 2000, we have been told to use this year
2 2000 the right way and some of us don't know how to listen.
3 Therefore, we go on as we are. We heard from our elders
4 things are changing. Even the weather is changing. Now,
5 this must be true. So these are the reasons why we need to
6 -- I needed to come up with this talk. Our ancestors and
7 elders, whatever they say is usually true. They don't make
8 up, they speak from the heart and experience. So I wanted
9 to bring this up to your attention.

10
11 It's true that according to the reports from Fish &
12 Wildlife Service and Fish & Game, and we all know that the
13 number of fish is declining and some of the bird species
14 population is declining. And also those small birds that
15 used to be so abundant, fly like a smoke in our area, we
16 don't see those birds anymore and we can't utilize those
17 birds anymore. They are disappearing. The fish which we
18 utilize keep coming back, but the other species of birds we
19 don't see in our areas anymore. But the sea gull, the sea
20 gull population seems -- we don't see the declining of our
21 sea gull because they keep our land clean and we need to
22 respect those birds, those species of birds.

23
24 The ocean -- the coast line will have -- during the
25 fall time, (indiscernible) coast line is clean. Every year
26 it seems like the coast is usually cleaned by high tides.
27 So I still have some things to talk about, but I wanted to
28 bring this up to your attention. If you can handle it, go
29 ahead, but I doubt by just going this will help. So this
30 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta invaded by beaver. I know that it's
31 been said before that beavers are destroying any kind of
32 species, especially fish. So I want to pass on to you
33 what.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

36
37 INTERPRETER: At this time we are going to
38 -- this motion.

39
40 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Request for roll call.

41
42 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

43
44 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

45
46 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

47
48 MR. McCANN: Yes.

49
50 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

00192

1 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

2

3 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

4

5 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

6

7 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

8

9 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

10

11 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

12

13 MR. WILDE: No.

14

15 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson, Sr.?

16

17 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

18

19 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, abstain.

20 Robert Nick?

21

22 MR. NICK: Yes.

23

24 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

25

26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

27

28 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, we have eight
29 yeses, one no and one abstain.

30

31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to break now.
32 We've got a long ways to go. I think some of these people
33 are not here. So we're going to try to finish
34 (indiscernible).

35

36 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) (No translation)

37

38 (Off record)

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Agency report. The first
42 is U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Office of Subsistence
43 Management.

44

45 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 There's just one simple item to bring to the attention of
47 the regional council and that is that the Office of
48 Subsistence Management is going to move to a new building.
49 We're in the process of hiring some new fisheries
50 biologists and new people to work with us, so we outgrew

00193

1 our space. The new building is the Frontier Building on
2 36th and C Street. It's close by where we are now and the
3 address for that building and the phone number is -- the
4 address is in the regulations booklet, the fisheries regs
5 book. It has the new address and all of the phone numbers
6 will stay the same. So that's the only thing.

7

8 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yukon Delta National
9 Wildlife Reserve. Steve.

10

11 MR. LEEBURG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
12 I'll start representing Mike Reardon. For the record, my
13 name is Paul Leeburg. I'm the deputy manager with the Yukon
14 Delta Refuge. There was four things on the list for us to
15 cover. Population report for moose and caribou and Lower
16 Kuskokwim management moose -- or Lower Kuskokwim moose
17 management planning. I'll let Steve cover those. I think
18 Alex Nick was going to discuss a little bit the RIT (ph)
19 Program.

20

21 Let me cover that third one there for starters,
22 which was the expanded waiver of inspection. These were
23 fur exports. I'm not sure exactly what the council's
24 interest was in that, but let me summarize that in December
25 -- well, even going back further, furs that are exported
26 from the country need a number of permits and it applies
27 mostly to fur buyers and fur sellers, but it also includes
28 local fur -- local trappers who may be sending furs out of
29 the country, sending to markets in Vancouver or Winnipeg or
30 somewhere, and they're required to have a number of permits
31 associated with that. Up until now, there was an
32 administrative fee for inspecting those furs that got
33 exported and the waiver that is discussed here applies to
34 those exports and the waiver now did not -- or the permit
35 fee for inspection is not required unless you're shipping
36 over 1,000 furs at a time or over 2,500 per year. So that
37 administrative charge for inspecting those will be waived
38 for almost all individual trappers and that is the purpose
39 of that waiver, so it does save the individual trapper some
40 money. Yes, Robert?

41

42 MR. NICK: That includes (indiscernible)?

43

44 MR. LEEBURG: Yes. Any other questions on
45 that?

46

47 MR. CHURCH: Did you say 1,000?

48

49 MR. LEEBURG: Yes. It's written up as
50 1,000 per shipment. The flyer that addresses it is in the

00194

1 back I see, but 1,000 per shipment or 2,500 per year. Once
2 you go over either of those, then you still have to pay the
3 inspection fee. Of course, there's permits that still
4 exist no matter how big the shipment is, but at least that
5 inspection fee was waived.

6
7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore questions?

8
9 MR. LEEBURG: Okay. I'll let Steve talk
10 about the moose issues. I just wanted to say on behalf of
11 the refuge we certainly are in support of the moose
12 management planning that is being done by or initiated by
13 the Fish & Game Advisory Committee and we're going to be
14 certainly a player in that and be involved in that. Steve
15 can address where we are with surveys. I think the Fish &
16 Game Advisory Committee (indiscernible).

17
18 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the
19 record, my name is Steve Kovach. I'm a game biologist for
20 the refuge. I'll touch on caribou very quickly because
21 that's easy. We've had more caribou wintering on the
22 refuge this year than we've ever had. We've had in excess
23 of 50,000 caribou on the refuge this winter. The primary
24 reason for that is there's a very large portion of
25 Mulchatna herd that normally winters in the
26 Dillingham/Togiak area. They decided to winter up on the
27 Yukon Delta this year. That main core of the Mulchatna
28 herd has a large number of wolf packs that follow it on an
29 annual basis. Those wolves, you know, follow those caribou
30 year in and year out and they came up here.

31
32 We've had a tremendous number of wolves harvested
33 along the Kuskokwim this year. We don't have any firm
34 numbers, but from conversations I've had with fur buyers
35 and hunters and trappers and Fish & Game in trying to put
36 all the pieces of the puzzle together, there have been at
37 least 100 wolves shot this winter and about 35 to 40 wolves
38 trapped this winter. In a normal year on the Kuskokwim, if
39 20 to 25 wolves are trapped and shot in one winter, that's
40 a pretty good year. So you can see we've had a lot of
41 wolves out here this year and it's all related to caribou
42 and the portion of caribou herd that decided to come and
43 winter here this year.

44
45 Moving on to moose, we attended a meeting of the
46 Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Council and that was held at the
47 Fish & Wildlife Service office back in -- last month,
48 actually. Their presentation was made by Roger Seavory,
49 Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and I have a copy of his
50 presentation here for you. And basically this is just a

00195

1 copy of the presentation Roger made at that meeting.

2

3 At that time, as of last month, we've only had one
4 census of moose along the Kuskokwim River. That was back in
5 1993. At that time, the population was between 200 and 250
6 moose and that is basically from Upper Kalsag all the way
7 down to Bethel. We know that the potential for moose is
8 much higher in this area. In fact, we believe that we have
9 at least 2000 moose in this area. People may ask, well,
10 how can we possibly know that many moose in this area. So
11 Roger basically went on to point out other areas in the
12 immediate vicinity.

13

14 The Lower Yukon River area, in 1988, we had no
15 moose at all. There was -- the local residents there
16 requested a moratorium on moose hunting. They did a lot of
17 cooperation amongst themselves to ensure that no moose were
18 illegally taken. Now there's quite a few moose out there.
19 We're getting reports there's moose walking all the way
20 down to the mouth of the river. In 1994, a census was done
21 and they counted 65 moose.

22

23 In the Andreafsky moose count area, which is
24 basically from Mountain Village up to about Pilot Station
25 area and then following the full course of the Andreafsky
26 River up. In 1995, we had a population estimate of 52
27 moose. Last winter we went in there, repeated the census
28 and we had a tenfold increase. There's a population
29 estimate of now 524 moose and that was just in a period of
30 five years.

31

32 In the Paimuit moose count area, which basically
33 goes from Pilot Station all the way up to Paimuit following
34 the Yukon River, 1992, we had a population estimate of just
35 short of 1,000 moose. In 1998, when we repeated the
36 census, it was just over 2,000 moose. Since that census
37 has occurred, both Roger and I have flown many portions of
38 that census area again just trying to get a feel for the
39 populations building and we know it's even higher yet.
40 The population is continuing to grow.

41

42 As another example, Roger looked at the Togiak
43 drainage, which this council has heard reports on in the
44 past from representatives of the Togiak Refuge. Basically
45 they can scour -- they scoured that area in 1991 and came
46 up with for moose in that whole area. They did a count
47 this last winter and had an excess of 500 moose. So, in
48 nine years they basically went from nothing to a sizable
49 population.

50

1 As another example, we had a map depicting our
2 estimate -- a draft made up of our estimate of where
3 wintering habitat is along the Kuskokwim River at this
4 meeting. We did not include many areas that is moose
5 habitat typical of what you see in the Seward Peninsula.
6 On the last page there you'll see Seward Peninsula moose
7 count area. This is an area outside of Nome on the Seward
8 Peninsula. As you can see, that population runs between
9 400 and 500 moose. That is just to show the areas that
10 we're not counting as wintering moose habitat probably
11 will, in fact, carry moose.

12
13 So we have quite a potential. There on the bottom
14 there are just our estimates of what population potentials
15 are here in the Y-K Delta. As you can see, the Lowest
16 Yukon we feel could easily support 500 to 850 moose. The
17 Andreafsky area, that area from Mountain Village up to
18 Pilot, between 1,500 and 2,000 moose. The area from Pilot
19 Station up to Paimuit, 2,500 to 3,000 moose. In fact, all
20 these estimates are very conservative. We're kind of going
21 on the low side of things. It's very possible you're going
22 to have a lot more moose than that. Looking at the habitat
23 we have along the Kuskokwim, it's not unrealistic that we
24 can have 2,000 moose down there.

25
26 So that's basically what Roger pointed out to the
27 Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Council. Mr. Chair, of course,
28 you were there and Mr. McCann is a member of that group.
29 One thing that I did want to bring to this group's
30 attention is the actual potential that moose have for
31 growth.

32
33 This handout that you're getting now was basically
34 first developed by Randy Kane before he was killed. Randy
35 took a very conservative estimate based on what we know
36 about moose throughout the state. We do know that some
37 two-year-old moose will, in fact, breed and have young, but
38 Randy wanted to be very, very conservative and say we know
39 that three-year-old moose do calve every year. Randy went
40 on to say that female will only have twins once every three
41 years. Again, that's quite conservative. In good habitat
42 areas, like what we have up in Paimuit, she should be
43 producing calves like every other year. But what Randy
44 laid out was just a real conservative approach to moose
45 production and we know from studies in the Fairbanks area,
46 outside of Glennallen, down the Kenai and other areas, we
47 know that moose routinely live to 20 or more years of age
48 and we know that they routinely produce calves through age
49 20. But, again, being a little bit conservative, we just
50 looked at -- saying they only live to 16 to 18 years of

00197

1 age.

2

3 If you turn to the third page, you'll see a chart
4 that says calves produced by one cow can live to age 16.
5 This is what most people think of of a female producing
6 offspring. As you can see, if she produces offspring for
7 14 years, when she becomes 16 years of age, she produces 19
8 calves. But what's really happening, if you turn that page
9 over, all of her female offspring are going to have
10 youngsters as well. If a cow moose lives for 16 years,
11 produces young 14 of those 16 years, this is what that one
12 female is really responsible for.

13

14 On the last page you'll see a bar chart that --
15 instead of trying to add all the moose up, I've done it for
16 you. You can see through age 14 she's produced about 220
17 calves. If she produces calves two more years, then that
18 total jumps up to about 420. So this is what the potential
19 is for moose population growth. Now, of course, this is a
20 perfect world. Nothing is dying from predation, disease,
21 high floods during spring break-up, things like that. Not
22 all those animals are going to survive, we know that, but
23 this is just to show you what is actually possible for
24 these animals.

25

26 Mr. Chair, you'll remember in January there was a
27 teleconference with the Federal Subsistence Board over a
28 proposal to have a second 10-day winter moose season for
29 Unit 18. At that time it was relayed to the Federal
30 Subsistence Board by the refuge and by Fish & Game and we
31 basically don't know much about moose here. We have tried
32 to census moose on the Kuskokwim a number of times, but
33 weather and usually the lack of snow is what prevents us
34 from doing the census. We need a complete snow cover in
35 order to census moose.

36

37 At that time, the only census data was presented.
38 That was the census from March of '93. The results from
39 that census, 49 moose were actually observed, but through
40 the statistics and the map, the population estimate was 200
41 to 250. The people who did the census at that time felt
42 like it was not a very good census. They felt like they
43 were not spending enough time in the places they should
44 have been.

45

46 Mr. Chair, you'll remember that as a result of that
47 Federal Subsistence Board teleconference Mr. Reardon
48 promised to try and get a quick survey in. We wanted to
49 fly for two days. We only got one day of flying in. But
50 basically what we did is we selected the best of the moose

00198

1 habitat along the Kuskokwim River and along the Kasigluk
2 and Kisaralik Rivers, as well as the Gweek River. We also
3 wanted to do the Tuluksak River and the Kwethluk River, but
4 we couldn't get our second day of flying in, so we couldn't
5 go there.

6
7 Mr. Tim Andrew from AVCP and Roy Williams of Akiak
8 flew with us. We had two survey airplanes. We did fly the
9 5th of January and you can see at the bottom of this last
10 page a table that just shows you how much time we spent and
11 how many moose we saw along the Kuskokwim. Between the two
12 survey airplanes, we saw a total of 48 moose. Because we
13 weren't doing this in a real systematic manner, we were
14 just trying to find the best of the moose habitat, take an
15 approximate and keep going.

16
17 We had to have some way of measuring what does 48
18 mean, so we converted that to how many moose we saw per
19 hour of flight time. As you can see, that was only 10
20 moose per hour of flight time. So what we did is we ran up
21 to a part of the Paimuit census area to get a feel for what
22 that moose per hour really means. And this was done the
23 exact same day we flew on the Kuskokwim and we flew three
24 small areas. You can see we flew the Tucker Slough area,
25 Pearl/Base Islands and the south edge of the Yukon River
26 from the downstream end of Pearl Island all the way up to
27 Paimuit Slough. Between two survey airplanes, they saw 445
28 moose or 230 moose per hour, and we were flying basically
29 the exact same time the habitat.

30
31 So you can see, you know, we're looking at the
32 Yukon as what we should be seeing on the Kuskokwim to try
33 and get an idea. You'll see there's a tremendous
34 difference between there. I've included on there the
35 census results the last time we did a census on the Yukon,
36 which was in January of '98, so you can just get a little
37 bit of a reference point and you can also see why we
38 believe that there's more moose now than there was two
39 years ago.

40
41 One thing I do want to note is that when we've done
42 our censuses on the Yukon River the last two winters in
43 both the Paimuit count area and the Andreafsky count area,
44 both winters we saw 33 calves per 100 adults when we did
45 our census. Now, we did finally manage to get out and get
46 the census on the Kuskokwim completed. This is the actual
47 census map with all the survey areas. You can see it
48 extends from just above Upper Kalskag all the way down to
49 just about Bethel, 900 square miles of area that this
50 census area covers. We had three airplanes flying for four

00199

1 and a half days. We saw 69 moose, we saw 19 calves per 100
2 adults.

3
4 The population estimate I can't give you today.
5 The statistician has all the data in Fairbanks and he's
6 working it up. However, just doing some preliminary number
7 crunching, I doubt seriously the population estimate will
8 be above 100. We spent a tremendous amount of time. We
9 spent more time surveying than what the protocol calls for
10 because the survey conditions are not perfect. The
11 protocol calls for about -- spending about eight minutes
12 per square mile surveying and we more than doubled that.
13 We just spent a tremendous amount of time in there trying
14 to make sure that we saw every single moose that was in
15 each of our survey areas.

16
17 So that pretty much brings you up to date, Mr.
18 Chair. If there's any questions I can answer, I'll
19 certainly try.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have
22 questions? Robert.

23
24 MR. NICK: I have a question on these
25 numbers being as long as they are. I attended a joint
26 meeting of the eastern and western regions. On their moose
27 reports, their numbers were even more alarming. Their
28 numbers were (indiscernible) numbers. And then I heard
29 them mention something that I hoped that I'd never hear as
30 far as moose and fish populations. By the state Fish &
31 Game people that were reporting on certain areas in the
32 interior, there was a mention of a possibility of a tier
33 system for moose in that particular area. Would these
34 numbers on the Lower Kuskokwim portion -- what does that
35 state for the numbers? If they're lower next year, what
36 does that state? Where does Taylor come into play?

37
38 MR. KOVACH: Well, as you know, under the
39 federal system, the Federal Subsistence Board is required
40 to have healthy populations before a hunt is supposed to be
41 authorized. Right now, given the latest census results, as
42 a biologist, I'd be very hard-pressed to say this, in fact,
43 is a healthy population given the quality of the habitat
44 available. We have a lot of problem with moose trying to
45 move into the area and not surviving. It's not because of
46 four-legged predators what's happening.

47
48 The main thing we wanted to bring to the attention
49 of both the local advisory committees as well as the
50 Subsistence (indiscernible) is we see a real significant

00200

1 resource issue here. We see a lot of habitat available and
2 moose trying to come in, but they're not being allowed to
3 live. Both Fish & Game and the refuge feel like this is a
4 fairly serious problem and want to bring it to the
5 attention of the advisory committees that work in the area
6 and say what do you want to do. If you want to grow a
7 moose, we'll work with you to figure out a way to grow a
8 moose.

9
10 The example of the Lowest Yukon where they just
11 flat shut it all down, the people worked together real hard
12 to encourage each other not to harvest moose and protect
13 those moose and so on. That example there has paid off
14 tremendously. The same thing happened in Togiak. They had
15 no moose hunting for a very long time and the moose were
16 allowed to move back in and establish themselves and now
17 they're having a limited hunt there. The Lowest Yukon now
18 has a hunt also.

19
20 So these are, you know, possible strategies that
21 need to be thought about and discussed amongst all the
22 communities along the Kuskokwim. People need to decide
23 what it is they want to do to have moose. As I said, the
24 potential is very significant. We could house a lot -- and
25 that doesn't include the mountains, all the habitat that's
26 in the Kilbuck Mountains and the Kuskokwim Mountains.
27 There is a lot of habitat up there.

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.

30
31 MR. NICK: On (indiscernible) the advisory
32 board for ADF&G asked for a moratorium for five years?

33
34 MR. KOVACH: Well, they didn't ask for a
35 moratorium, but they voted to start working on a management
36 plan. One of the options they specifically wanted to
37 address was whether or not a moratorium would work. So
38 that's what the local advisory committee elected to do and
39 Mr. McCann can certainly address it a lot better than I can
40 or any member of that group. As I understood the
41 conversations and motions, they wanted to start in on kind
42 of an education process to start letting people know what
43 they could have. Billy can certainly correct me if I get
44 something wrong here. That's where that group wants to go.
45 It felt like this is largely a Fish & Game issue. Much of
46 this land in the river corridor, of course, is corporation
47 land, outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence
48 Board, as you may know. So we wanted to get that group
49 involved, get them informed as to what's happening, as well
50 as bring the same issue here and start working on it.

00201

1 The regulatory cycle for Unit 18 as far as the
2 Board of Game is concerned is they're taking it up in the
3 fall of next year, fall of 2001. Instead of going for an
4 agenda change request and trying to push something through,
5 maybe the best thing to do is spend a little bit of time
6 now and talk to a lot of people, get a lot of discussions
7 going up and down the river and all the communities and
8 build the consensus support for doing something, then go to
9 both the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board of Game at
10 the same time saying we, the people of the area, this is
11 what we'd like to do.

12
13 MR. NICK: You just answered what I was
14 going to ask. That census area in the refuge area
15 (indiscernible). The Fish & Game Advisory Board passed a
16 plan for that area. According to the numbers you gave on
17 January 15, you indicators that these numbers were fairly
18 healthy numbers.

19
20 MR. KOVATCH: Well, the numbers up on the
21 Yukon were, but the numbers along the Kuskokwim were pretty
22 sad.

23
24 MR. NICK: Right. So I wanted just to
25 clarify one thing and make it clear that this group here
26 has the pervue to make recommendations on some kind of a
27 management plan for federal land.

28
29 MR. KOVATCH: Absolutely.

30
31 MR. NICK: And I just that down the road, a
32 month or two years or even this year, someone comes up and
33 says that you guys, the Federal Subsistence Advisory
34 Council, did not make any stand or any recommendations for
35 the enhancement of the moose population and I just wanted
36 an assertion that that's what you are doing.

37
38 MR. KOVATCH: That's why we wanted to
39 provide a briefing to the councils, to let them know what
40 was presented to the local committee meeting. You got the
41 same information. You had the benefit of the fact we just
42 completed the census, so you know what the numbers are.
43 What our plans are for the refuge and for Fish & Game is we
44 do these censuses on a cooperative basis. It takes both
45 agencies to pull these things off. It's a big job, a lot
46 of ground to cover, a lot of airplanes are required. What
47 our plan is we will do the Kuskokwim and the Kilbuck
48 Mountains in even numbered years and the Yukon River on odd
49 numbered years. Next winter we'll be going up to the Yukon
50 to do a census.

1 We have changed the methodology that we use to
2 census moose. We have statisticians who understand a whole
3 lot better than I do, but they tell us that we can do the
4 entire Yukon at one time instead of trying to do it in
5 three parts over three years. We can change over this new
6 technique and do it all at one time or we can do it every
7 other year and come up with numbers just as good. Because
8 we'll be getting them every other year, we'll be having a
9 lot more data with which to track the populations and
10 monitor the populations. So that's what our plan is. Of
11 course, it all depends upon weather, snow cover and
12 everything else that throws a monkey wrench in on things.
13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're going to shoot for
15 3:15 or otherwise the council is going to stay overnight at
16 Bethel. We have to speed up these reports as much as we
17 can. Any more questions?
18

19 MR. OWELTUCK: I've got a couple.
20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead.
22

23 MR. OWELTUCK: Were these in public land or
24 federal land, right, or you just did the whole district
25 area?
26

27 MR. KOVICH: The census area is what you
28 see there and it's two-thirds corporation lands and one-
29 third on refuge lands is roughly where right now. The vast
30 majority of the moose are in the heavy green area above
31 Tuluksak, is where we found the vast majority of the moose.
32 The majority of those were on corporation land. There was
33 a few kind of scattered out. What we do with our census
34 areas is basically pick on four areas. Knowing that
35 there's moose elsewhere, but we have to pick on certain
36 areas where we'll capture the majority of the animals. We
37 figure if we can monitor what the majority of the animals
38 are doing, we'll have a good idea of what the rest of them
39 are doing as well.
40

41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.
42

43 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)
44

45 INTERPRETER: Mary asked if there's a
46 representative on this regional council from above
47 Tuluksak.
48

49 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.
50

00203

1 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: James Charles said that
4 during ADF&G Advisory Committee meeting they had a
5 representative from Tuluksak.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

8

9 MR. NICK: One more. A question about
10 wolves. Did you see any wolves?

11

12 MR. KOVACH: Actually, we didn't. I was
13 quite surprised we didn't see the one pack that I know of
14 in that area, but the fact that we fly so low and so slow,
15 they heard us long before and they were out of our way.
16 One aircraft did record a single wolf kill and we came
17 across nine others that were illegal picks.

18

19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Next on our
20 agenda is AVCP.

21

22 MR. ANDREW: The AVCP natural resource
23 report by Jennifer.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Jennifer. (In Yup'ik)

26

27 INTERPRETER: Are you going to present AVCP
28 resolutions? It would be better if you'd come up, this
29 lady here, to bring the resolutions.

30

31 MS. HOOPER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
32 Council. My name is Jennifer Chris Hooper and I'm AVCP's
33 fisheries biologist. James is going to talk about his part
34 of natural resources, birds and game, so I'm just going to
35 give an update on fisheries. I guess I'll just kind of go
36 over briefly what we've been doing. Last year we continued
37 with the Kwethluk counting tower. We had high water at the
38 start and the finish, so our season was cut short again.
39 (Indiscernible). We had technicians helping the Department
40 of Fish & Game at the Aniak sonar and the Pilot Station
41 sonar. We started the funding from the Army fund that
42 (indiscernible). We started a Marshall test fishery and
43 we've also started the development of a group on the
44 Kuskokwim that will sort of model what's on the Yukon
45 (indiscernible) and we're calling it KR DFA, Kuskokwim River
46 Drainage Fisherman's Association. We've got our third
47 meeting in June in Bethel to kind of introduce the idea to
48 the river to the villages. And then U.S. Fish & Wildlife,
49 they were able to take people from Kwethluk as well as
50 James and myself up to the George River weir and then to

00204

1 the Goodnews River weir, but they were to show people who
2 had previous oppositions how they operate in hopes of
3 convincing them that weirs were beneficial and necessary.
4 And then a lot of this is continuing to this year, so this
5 is what we're going to do this year and what we've done so
6 far.

7
8 We had our second KRDFFA meeting in Bethel at the
9 end of February. The bylaws were almost finished. There's
10 a group of, I think, five people that are going to be
11 meeting by teleconference to finish up the bylaws, then at
12 our next meeting hopefully they will be adopted and then
13 the group will meet to finalize.

14
15 After the weir trips last year, Kwethluk decided
16 they liked weirs and it seemed like U.S. Fish & Wildlife
17 and Department of Fish & Game are going to be operating
18 their own floating weir this summer. And I just heard it's
19 almost finished being constructed in the warehouse in
20 Bethel. So Kwethluk is going to be taking over a lot of
21 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service test projects.

22
23 We submitted several proposals, as Tim said
24 yesterday, to have Federal Subsistence now in the program
25 and hopefully for this you we will have two of them funded.
26 The first is for two additional technicians to help with
27 the Department of Fish & Game in their established
28 projects. I believe one for the Aniak sonar and one
29 additional for the Pilot Station sonar.

30
31 And then we'd like to do additional weir trips.
32 There are still people in that region who have their
33 beliefs on what we are to do and we'd like to take them
34 back to either the George River weir or the Goodnews weir
35 and show them exactly how these weirs operate. The U.S.
36 Fish & Wildlife Service wanted to build on that and I was
37 talking with KYAK in Bethel and we were hoping with their
38 help and their crew with these weir trips to produce kind
39 of a radio PSA and then to produce a 10 to 15-minute video
40 that documents the weirs and how they operate, do
41 interviews with the weir crew and people that we bring to
42 the weirs and that could be made available to anybody
43 interested, but that's what we're hoping for this year.

44
45 We're also in the process of submitting a proposal
46 for sort of a multi-year, three-year research program
47 working with the state and federal agencies on all
48 different sorts of projects to find out why our fish on the
49 Kuskokwim are still not returning, why they're still
50 decreasing.

00205

1 I guess the last thing, the Board of Fisheries is
2 meeting right now and one of the issues they're discussing
3 is ACR26, which is our rod and reel proposal. I received a
4 handout from (indiscernible) and it kind of outlines what
5 AVCP and Subsistence and AVCP and Sportfish are going to
6 do. Everybody that I think were interested were pretty
7 receptive and felt that the rod and reel issue needed to be
8 not put on any longer, that eventually the rod and reel
9 will be (indiscernible) for subsistence. That's all I have
10 for fisheries.

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have
13 questions for Jennifer?

14
15 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

16
17 INTERPRETER: I'd like to add to this
18 report. We have a proposal because of (indiscernible) and
19 we came up with our solution to support what we're trying
20 to do to help to increase the population of the fisheries.
21 Because of the decline of the fish, we have come up with
22 this solution. And other areas are also affected by the
23 decline in the fish, but in Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta it seems
24 like it's worse than other areas of the state of fish
25 decline. Ever since 1980, it seems like our fisheries are
26 just going down. We started talking about this fish in
27 1980 and 1989. Right now we need to go in deeper study of
28 fish, why the decline of fish is occurring. This solution
29 will need to study this decline in the fish for five years
30 and we'd like to take a closer look at this issue and would
31 like your support.

32
33 Also we want to take a look at the fish in the
34 river as well as the high seas. This resolution, which
35 comes from AVCP, AVCP is asking us to support their
36 resolution. President of AVCP is suggesting that they go
37 deeper into studying the declining of the fish. You
38 understand the resolution. The president of AVCP is asking
39 for support and the floor is now open for a motion to
40 support.

41
42 MR. OWELTUCK: (In Yup'ik) (No
43 translation)

44
45 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alvin Oweltuck motions to
46 support this first resolution. Is there a second to the
47 motion?

48
49 MS. GREGORY: Second.

50

00206

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Mary. Any
2 discussion?

3
4 MR. NICK: Question.

5
6 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
7 called for. Request for roll call.

8
9 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

10
11 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

12
13 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

14
15 MR. McCANN: Yeah.

16
17 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

18
19 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

20
21 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

22
23 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

24
25 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

26
27 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

28
29 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

30
31 MR. WILDE: Yes.

32
33 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson, Sr.?

34
35 MR. HANSON: Yes.

36
37 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Robert

38 Nick?

39
40 MR. NICK: Yes.

41
42 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

43
44 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. Motion carries.

45
46 MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

47
48 INTERPRETER: Second resolution, I brought
49 this up yesterday, but then this is directly to the
50 memorandum. It looked like your support on this resolution

00207

1 two will include all the communities. This memorandum
2 would include all the villages in (indiscernible) and AVCP.
3 They want to talk about this in Yup'ik. They are -- AVCP
4 and the council request the original board for funding to
5 hire workers to include the Wildlife Service workers
6 towards the study of this. We should work together more.
7 We need to get together and work together (indiscernible)
8 to be presented to Federal Board. Those people hired to
9 work closely together with Fish & Wildlife Service in
10 gathering this information. We hope to -- would like to
11 support this resolution. I also ask the hunting resources
12 to watch this project.

13
14 I don't have a copy of the resolution, that's why
15 I'm having a hard time keeping up. (Reading resolution)

16
17 MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

20
21 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

22
23 INTERPRETER: Mary is asking which
24 (indiscernible) supporting this resolution and Mary makes a
25 motion to accept the resolution -- to support the
26 resolution.

27
28 MR. NICK: Second.

29
30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Robert.
31 Discussion? Go ahead.

32
33 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
34 resolution -- second resolution. I'd like to ask this
35 question. Harry and I had discussion on this state and
36 federal people. I brought this up before you came. I
37 suggested that we come up with a resolution so that the
38 people or state or federal will not come up with anything
39 without us knowing about it. Maybe we could insert that
40 section into this resolution. This comes from AVCP, but we
41 need to come up with some avenue so when something comes
42 up, we need to know the activities of the state or the
43 federal people when they come up with something so these
44 things will not be a surprise to us.

45
46 I'm sorry, I take back what I said. I made a
47 mistake. I'm sorry, Myron, I made a mistake, but maybe we
48 could come up with another resolution that pertains to all
49 of us.

50

00208

1 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester, go ahead.

2

3 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I have to
4 apologize to Myron because he understands that I have some
5 problem understanding Yup'ik to some degree and because I
6 don't have a copy of the resolution in front of me, I
7 couldn't follow what he was saying. If it comes down to
8 voting without the presence of that document before me, I
9 have to abstain.

10

11 MR. NANENG: We provided 15 copies. I can
12 provide you with a copy of mine.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Anymore discussion?

15

16 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 INTERPRETER: We were discussing this. We
19 were to.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (Indiscernible).

22

23 MS. GREGORY: Call for question then.

24

25 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
26 called for. Willard.

27

28 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

29

30 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

31

32 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

33

34 MR. McCANN: Yeah.

35

36 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

37

38 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

39

40 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

41

42 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

43

44 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

45

46 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

47

48 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

49

50 MR. WILDE: Abstain.

00209

1 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson, Sr.?

2
3 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

4
5 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Robert
6 Nick?

7
8 MR. NICK: Yes.

9
10 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

11
12 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. The yeses have it.

13
14 MR. CHURCH: Nine yeses and one abstain.

15
16 MR. NANENG: The last one -- you didn't
17 have a copy of the last resolution, but this pertains to
18 the migratory bird. This pertains to -- the Waterfowl
19 Committee, WCC, was formed under AVCP since 1988 because of
20 the waterfowl conservation. Under fish protocol amendment
21 we are directed to handle this situation working together
22 with the state, federal and Native working group. Also
23 there are two people that are working on this issue. We
24 are recognized by the federal government because we utilize
25 waterfowl and waterfowl conservation. We work together
26 with the villages in the Y-K Delta region and Fish &
27 Wildlife Service has to make comments and any input from
28 the villages how this protocol amendment is to be handled.
29 They would like to have some input on villages how this
30 protocol amendment be made, which would be by waterfowl
31 users. We would like also your support in dealing with
32 this issue.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.

35
36 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (In
37 Yup'ik)

38
39 INTERPRETER: This issue was posed before
40 us, but then we suggested (indiscernible) be taken.
41 Waterfowl Conservation should handle this.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) (No
44 translation)

45
46 MR. HANSON: So moved.

47
48 MR. OWELTUCK: Second.

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Alvin Oweltuck.

00210

1 Discussion?

2

3

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Question.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
called for. Roll call.

7

8

MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

9

10

MS. GREGORY: Nay.

11

12

MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

13

14

MR. McCANN: Yeah.

15

16

MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

17

18

MR. MOSES: Yeah.

19

20

MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

21

22

MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

23

24

MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

25

26

MR. CHARLES: Yes.

27

28

MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

29

30

MR. WILDE: Yes.

31

32

MR. CHURCH: John Hanson, Sr.?

33

34

MR. HANSON: Yes.

35

36

MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Robert

37 Nick?

38

39

MR. NICK: Yes.

40

41

MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

42

43

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. The ayes have it.

44

45

MR. NANENG: Mr. Chairman. (In Yup'ik)

46

47

48

INTERPRETER: This is all I have and I want
to thank you very much for the support.

49

50

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Robert.

00211

1 MR. NICK: When you come and participate,
2 we look at you. Your support is very powerful in dealing
3 with this and we're glad that you've come.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

6
7 MR. BERLIN: Good afternoon. (In Yup'ik)

8
9 INTERPRETER: I am James Berlin and I work
10 with natural resources and AVCP. I am sorry that I came
11 late after lunch. I didn't know my brother's son passed
12 away, so that's the reason why I was late. Ever since late
13 fall at Koyukuk meeting I have been working and I would
14 like to pass on to you what we have been doing since
15 Koyukuk meeting in January. I went up to Barrow to attend
16 the meeting. Salvage requirements were discussed.
17 Sometime sport hunters come from Anchorage. Sometimes a
18 lot of meat is wasted by sports hunters. Salvage
19 requirement was brought up and the waste is being taken
20 care of by the state and we brought up a proposal that when
21 they catch game, any kind of game, if it's eatable, to
22 bring it back to the villages and be distributed to the
23 community, but if it's spoiled, the people who catch, they
24 should bring back everything with them. The sports hunters
25 pay money, but they should not waste. They leave the waste
26 out there. They should take it back with them.

27
28 I spoke with Representative Mary Kapsneroff (ph) and
29 had a discussion with her about this issue and she said
30 that she will come up with a license to harvest moose.
31 When the people are moose hunting, they should have a
32 ticket or a license just in case they are cited by law
33 enforcement officers. That license should not end December
34 31st, but it should be extended later (indiscernible) by
35 the legislature to be considered. And then January 8th he
36 also attended another meeting concerning wolf population.
37 This moose population is being affected by wolf population.

38
39
40 He represented AVCP when this meeting was taking
41 place. There were a lot of people there, trappers were
42 included as well as subsistence users. In the past, those
43 environments were fighting or opposing the subsistence
44 users and then later on they met together in Anchorage.
45 During this meeting -- I attended this meeting and I made a
46 public testimony. Lots of people from my region attended
47 that meeting and I was trying to convince the people that
48 we utilize what's out there. There's a lot of people that
49 don't understand and they think we've got a lot of game.

50

00212

1 Government stated that because there are a lot of
2 people in the Bethel area, the game in the Bethel area. We
3 told them that sports hunters have some effect on the game.
4 Last year there were only three people that went to that
5 meeting. Our representatives in these meetings were low
6 and after that I attended the AVCP meeting. We were trying
7 to start an organization, but unfortunately we didn't get a
8 quorum.

9
10 We were trying to work with the Yukon River fish
11 system and it seems to do a good job watching the resource.
12 We don't have the authorization. That's why we have a lot
13 of trouble with our resource. When I attended their
14 meeting, I learned a lot. The association has got a lot of
15 good things going in taking care of their resources. Those
16 villages are now united and it seems like upriver and
17 downriver people are working together to try to help this
18 resource.

19
20 During the AVCP mid-year convention, I was not too
21 active in those meetings because I was out of town on other
22 business. My job is mostly devoted to subsistence areas
23 and I understand your purpose and I know you are helping
24 the people trying to conserve their subsistence resources,
25 but if I find something I will pass it on to you if I find
26 something useful and that might be helpful to you. Do you
27 have any questions?

28
29 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) (No
30 translation)

31
32 MR. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

33
34 INTERPRETER: If you don't mind, I'd like
35 to go home. I want to make one comment. This hovercraft -
36 - when it started, I was really opposed to the activity of
37 this hovercraft. These hovercraft are very powerful and it
38 shakes the water and waterfowl -- when we travel by boat in
39 the summertime, we see birds flying off the banks of the
40 river, but ever since the hovercraft activities we don't
41 see those birds anymore because this hovercraft is going
42 back and forth in our rivers. It seems like ever since --
43 also this hovercraft has a lot of bad things. It not only
44 affects the natural resources but it also affects the human
45 being.

46
47 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We've got a couple items
48 left, so I'm going to ask Willard -- give you that
49 opportunity for your proposal. I think Robert Nick will
50 take your writings there. (Change secretaries)

00213

1 MR. CHURCH: This is a project that we
2 designed and we would like to propose this project to the
3 Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Subsistence Advisory Council for
4 their support for inclusion in the FY2000 review. The
5 project title is a traditional ecological knowledge project
6 on the impact of the sports fishery on the subsistence
7 fishery in the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers as observed by
8 Native elders in Quinhagak, Alaska.

9
10 The geographic area would encompass the and
11 Kanektok and Arolik River drainages, which is on the
12 southern coast of Kuskokwim Bay. The information type
13 would be TEK, which is traditional ecological knowledge,
14 harvest monitoring and impact of sports fishery on
15 subsistence fishery on the Kanektok and Arolik River.

16
17 The issues that we will address will include
18 capacity building for factory and traditional ecological
19 knowledge and fisheries management by estimating the year
20 2000 subsistence harvest of rainbow trout, arctic char and
21 grayling by Native residents in the Quinhagak area. We
22 will work to establish and legitimize the concerns of
23 Native elders that the sports fishery is having an impact
24 on the subsistence fishery in the Kanektok and Arolik
25 Rivers in the way of life of Native residents of Quinhagak,
26 Alaska.

27
28 We have established these study objectives. The
29 first would be to establish and legitimize the concerns by
30 Native elders that the sports fishery is having an impact
31 on the subsistence fishery. Objective two would be to
32 compile traditional ecological knowledge of subsistence
33 freshwater fisheries by Quinhagak elders and residents.
34 This would include traditional taxonomies, trends in
35 abundance, the condition of fish stocks, movement, the
36 timing of runs, the areas of harvest, the timing of
37 harvest, the means of harvest, the food types,
38 preservation, sharing and customary trade. Three, we would
39 work towards updating the community household list and
40 identifying subsistence fishing households.

41
42 Project description. The Native Village of
43 Quinhagak, IRA Council and the subsistence fishermen of
44 Quinhagak are concerned that their resident freshwater fish
45 stocks are being reduced and their traditional harvest and
46 use patterns are being impacted by the influx and annual
47 increase in non-resident anglers to the Kanektok and Arolik
48 River drainages. This project will establish and
49 legitimize the concerns of local Native elders based on
50 their observations that the resident stocks of freshwater

00214

1 fish are being reduced and the subsistence needs of local
2 Native residents are not being met.

3
4 This project will also build on the multi-species
5 subsistence harvest surveys initiated in 1997 and conducted
6 for three years by the NBK Tribal Natural Resource
7 Department. During their earlier surveys, many of the
8 local Native residents voiced their concerns that the
9 sports fishery is having an impact on their subsistence
10 fishery and way of life by displacing the Native residents
11 from their traditional fish harvesting sites, by reducing
12 the annual harvests of subsistence freshwater fish and
13 increased competition for a limited resource and by
14 reducing the subsistence experience of local Native
15 residents due to the increasing number of visitors to the
16 Kanektok and Arolik Rivers annually.

17
18 Observations by Native elders confirmed that the
19 freshwater species that have been the most impacted are the
20 rainbow trout, the char and arctic grayling. Observations
21 confirmed these species are being injured from improper
22 catch and release techniques and mishandling. The Native
23 residents observed an increase in occurrence of diseased
24 fish that have come into the subsistence caught fish
25 unsuitable for human consumption.

26
27 NBK Tribal Natural Resource director will work as
28 project coordinator. One specialist and one elder
29 consultant will be hired to provide traditional ecological
30 knowledge on the subsistence use patterns and represent the
31 concerns of the Native residents in the Quinhagak area.
32 Project coordinator will interview applicants, then hire
33 and train staff. The elder consultant may be appointed and
34 recommended by the NBK/IRA Council. The hired staff will
35 conduct field surveys and household interviews. The
36 Quinhagak elders who are interviewed and who provide TEK,
37 which is traditional ecological knowledge, will be paid a
38 stipend honorarium.

39
40 Project coordinator will periodically seek
41 consultation and technical assistance from the Alaska
42 Department of Fish & Game, Division of Subsistence staff,
43 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Subsistence Division staff
44 and/or qualified individuals of coordinating this project.
45 Hired staff will use survey methods and protocols that were
46 established by NBK in aforementioned previous surveys. The
47 project coordinator and hired staff will gather traditional
48 ecological knowledge of subsistence freshwater fisheries
49 while interviewing local Native elders and work toward
50 achieving the study objectives of the project during the

00215

1 30-week period.

2

3 Completed original survey forms will include an
4 annual harvest testament of each specified species and be
5 compiled by the project coordinator for data entry.
6 Traditional ecological knowledge may be distributed with
7 the permission of the individuals interviewed and upon the
8 approval of the NBK/IRA Council. Subsistence harvest
9 information at the household level will remain with NBK and
10 will not be distributed; however, community summary
11 statistics may be provided following data analysis, which
12 will be distributed solely at the discretion of the NBK/IRA
13 Council.

14

15 Consultations completed, the potential for capacity
16 building. NBK Natural Resource Department staff will
17 conduct this project under the guidance of the NBK/IRA
18 Council and will seek consultation and technical assistance
19 from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Subsistence
20 Division staff and U.S. Fish & Wildlife staff and/or other
21 qualified individuals in drafting the final report to be
22 presented to the NBK/IRA Council and the tribal membership
23 of the Native Village of Quinhagak in their annual tribal
24 membership meeting.

25

26 If funded, this project will be a continuation of
27 survey operations with the unique difference of being
28 species specific for freshwater fisheries combined with the
29 gathering of traditional ecological knowledge for
30 subsistence fisheries of local Native elders. NBK Tribal
31 Natural Resource Department has the support and trust of
32 the region's Native community through its involvement in
33 the field of traditional tribal natural resource
34 management. Further, this opportunity will allow the
35 department to increase it's capacity to manage and conduct
36 specific projects geared toward traditional harvest and use
37 of subsistence resources. This opportunity will also allow
38 the department to increase its capacity to co-manage NBK's
39 subsistence resources with both the U.S. Fish & Wildlife
40 Service and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

41

42 The deliverable products. Deliverables and
43 products. This project will produce a total subsistence
44 harvest estimate for rainbow trout, arctic grayling and
45 char by Quinhagak residents for a year if supported and
46 funded 2000, thereby documenting Quinhagak's subsistence
47 way of life. This project will also establish and
48 legitimize the concerns of local Native elders that the
49 sports fishery is having an impact on the subsistence
50 fishery in both the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers.

00216

1 Traditional products will include compiled information on
2 traditional ecological knowledge for fisheries in the
3 Quinhagak area.

4
5 We put together a budget for the proposed projects
6 and the total project cost is budgeted at \$107,961.31 for
7 30 weeks. This would include one position for a resource
8 specialist, one position for an elder consultant, one
9 position for a project coordinator, the fringe and we will
10 also be providing elder stipends, which we call
11 honorariums. We feel in Quinhagak that when we are working
12 with our elders, when they are providing traditional
13 knowledge, that it should be required that they are paid an
14 honorarium for their time and we've estimated that
15 honorarium to be at \$50 a session. We have a minimum here
16 of 30 elders that we would like to interview. That's the
17 minimum. Supplies and operations, we estimate the supplies
18 and operations at \$185 a week for 30 weeks. With utilities
19 and rent for space and our offices and the computer and
20 electronic equipment, the total budget would be
21 \$107,961.31.

22
23 We also have two resolutions. Resolution 2000-03-
24 08 is a resolution supporting NBK's TEK project on the
25 impact of the sports fishery on the subsistence fishery in
26 Quinhagak in the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers as observed by
27 Native elders. This is a resolution that was supported by
28 our IRA Council. We had seven council members supporting
29 in favor and zero opposed and it is signed and dated the
30 20th of March, 2000. The second resolution that we have,
31 2000-03-07, is a resolution requesting that the Yukon-
32 Kuskokwim Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
33 support NBK's FY2000 subsistence fishery project proposal.

34
35 The whereas detail the activities of the project.
36 The details of the goals and the section that relates to
37 support from the Y-K Regional Advisory Council is a section
38 that says, therefore be it resolved that the Native Village
39 of Quinhagak IRA Council hereby submits this resolution
40 requesting that the Yukon-Kuskokwim Federal Subsistence
41 Regional Advisory Council support NBK's FY2000 subsistence
42 fisheries project proposal. Traditional ecological
43 knowledge project on the impact on the sports fishery on
44 the subsistence fishery in the Kanektok and Arolik Rivers
45 as observed by Native elders in Quinhagak, Alaska for
46 submission to the Federal Subsistence Board for their
47 consideration during the spring 2000 review. It was signed
48 by our IRA Council president, Mr. Wasillie Bavilla and we
49 had seven votes in favor, zero votes opposed and it was
50 dated the 20th of March, 2000. So we have full council

00217

1 support for both resolutions supporting the project and
2 also the resolution requesting support from the Y-K
3 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there anymore? You are
6 requesting council supporting these three, one project and
7 two resolutions?

8
9 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

10
11 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

12
13 MR. CHURCH: And for submission to the
14 Federal Subsistence Board for their consideration during
15 the FY2000 review.

16
17 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik) (No translation)
18 I make a motion.

19
20 MR. WILDE: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Lester.
23 Questions?

24
25 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

26
27 INTERPRETER: John Hanson said that the
28 resolutions that are going to be -- he would like to see
29 that -- he's wondering if the numbers are -- the recorder
30 may want the numbers or the staff members may want numbers
31 of the resolutions, so they should have numbers on the
32 resolutions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Resolution 03-07.

35
36 MS. GREGORY: That's the Native Village of
37 Quinhagak resolutions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, it's the Native
40 Village of Quinhagak, first resolution. And the second one
41 is resolution of Quinhagak, Resolution 03-08. And also
42 another project, number one project, traditional knowledge
43 for FY2000 NBK subsistence fishery project. All those
44 three. Is there discussion?

45
46 MR. WILDE: Question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
49 called for. Roll call.

50

00218

1 MR. NICK: Mary Gregory?

2
3 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

4
5 MR. NICK: Billy McCann?

6
7 MR. McCANN: Yes.

8
9 MR. NICK: Phillip Moses?

10
11 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

12
13 MR. NICK: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

14
15 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

16
17 MR. NICK: James Charles?

18
19 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

20
21 MR. NICK: Lester Wilde?

22
23 MR. WILDE: Yes.

24
25 MR. NICK: John Hanson, Sr.?

26
27 MR. HANSON: Yes.

28
29 MR. NICK: Willard Church.

30
31 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

32
33 MR. NICK: Me, yes. Harry Wilde, Sr.?

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. The yeses have it.
36 The next is Commercial Fisheries, Charley Burkey, are you
37 there?

38
39 MR. BURKEY: I am here.

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Charley, you have the
42 floor.

43
44 MR. BURKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Thank you regional advisory committee for this opportunity
46 to come before you again and pass on some information,
47 answer some questions and what have you. What I'm going to
48 talk about today is our outlook for the Kuskokwim River
49 commercial fishery. It's the outlook for the salmon
50 returns in the Kuskokwim River and the Kuskokwim Bay areas,

00219

1 along with the outlook of our estimate of possible
2 commercial fishing harvest for this next upcoming season.
3 Billy and James have already heard this, so bear with me,
4 guys.

5
6 Before I start in, I want to introduce myself. I'm
7 Charley. I've been before you guys a couple times already.
8 I'm the Kuskokwim area management biologist, Commercial
9 Fisheries Division, Alaska Department of Fish & Game. That
10 means that my part of the country is from Cape Newenham up
11 to Nelson and Nunivak Island area, the Kuskokwim River
12 drainage, the Kanektok River drainage, Goodnews River
13 drainage primarily. With me, I'll have him stand up here,
14 is Paul Salamone is an assistant. You've been there at
15 least a year, haven't you?

16
17 MR. SALAMONE: Almost two.

18
19 MR. BURKEY: Time flies. He's been working
20 for the Department of Fish & Game here in the Kuskokwim
21 area for about four years now. He's been my assistant for
22 almost two years now. He deals a lot with the herring
23 fishery on the coast and he also has a lot of
24 responsibilities for the Kuskokwim River, management of the
25 Kuskokwim River fishery, the subsistence and commercial
26 fisheries. Introductions are out of the way.

27
28 I handed out -- this table that was just passed out
29 to you is one short and sweet, one-page table. What it has
30 on it, it has a table up at the top, Table 11 it says, it
31 has the preliminary outlook for the 2000 Kuskokwim area
32 commercial salmon harvest. That's in thousands of fish.
33 It's broken down by fishing district and by species.
34 Districts 1 and 2 are the Kuskokwim River, District 4 is
35 Quinhagak and District 5 is Goodnews Bay. Those are our
36 commercial fishing districts.

37
38 Down below that, the second table on that page,
39 that's the latest ten-year commercial -- the average
40 commercial harvest for the last 10 years. That's there to
41 give you a reference point when you look at the top table,
42 what that means. That's your reference point. When we say
43 that the commercial harvest is going to be so many fish,
44 between so many fish and so many fish, then you can look
45 down below it and you can see what the last ten years
46 average harvest is and that kind of gives you a feeling for
47 -- to put that in perspective of what that number means.

48
49 The first thing that we must -- the first thing
50 that I want to talk about, when I talk about our outlook,

00220

1 what is our outlook, what goes into producing these numbers
2 in this table and I'll be up front with you and say it's a
3 very broad, very crude outlook. In other words, it's not
4 by any means very precise and very rigorous. There's not a
5 lot of math that goes into it, there's not a lot of
6 statistics that goes into it. It's an evaluation of the
7 escapements that occurred during the years that produced --
8 the eggs were put in the gravel and produced the fish that
9 are coming back next season.

10
11 And it's also an evaluation of our last couple
12 years productivity. In other words, have we had good
13 survival over the last couple years or have we had bad
14 survival over the last couple years, so we put that all
15 together, we look at the run assessment, how many fish did
16 we escape, how good was the escapement during the parent
17 years that's going to produce the fish that come back next
18 year, how good was that or how bad was that. And also how
19 have the fish done in the last couple years. Have we had
20 good survival, have we had bad survival. So that all comes
21 together and we come up with this outlook.

22
23 So, with that being said, I'll just run through the
24 outlook here hopefully real quickly. We'll start off with
25 chinook salmon. I'm going to start off with the river,
26 Districts 1 and 2, and then I'll run through the species.
27 District 1 and 2, chinook salmon, we estimate that -- our
28 projection for this season is for a return -- the total
29 return of chinook salmon to the river will be somewhere
30 between a below average to an average run strength. That's
31 the range. Based on that projection, we project a
32 commercial harvest of 5,000 to 20,000 chinook salmon next
33 season on the river and that corresponds -- you can relate
34 that to a 10-year average on the river of 27,000 chinook
35 salmon taken for subsistence use -- correction, I'm sorry,
36 commercial fishery.

37
38 The sockeye salmon return, we believe the sockeye
39 salmon return is probably going to be at least average to
40 above average. We've had -- the sockeye returns to the
41 river the last couple years have been decent. They've
42 maintained themselves at a pretty decent level, so we
43 estimate that the harvest of those sockeye is going to be
44 between 15 to 60,000 sockeye and the average -- last 10-
45 year average harvest of sockeye on the river has been
46 60,000 fish.

47
48 I'm going to skip down to chum salmon because they
49 come there in the spring. Chum salmon return, we're
50 expecting a chum salmon return is going to be below average

00221

1 to average and that's based on the fact that chum salmon
2 come back to the river as four-year-old and five-year-old
3 fish. Our four-year-old return last year was very poor.
4 Of course, the whole return of chum salmon to the river
5 last year was very poor. Based on the poor four-year-old
6 return last year, we expect that the five-year-old return
7 this year will also be poor. There's usually a
8 correlation. If you have poor return of four-year-olds one
9 year -- or a good return of four-year-olds one year, you're
10 going to see a good return of five-year-olds the next year
11 or a poor return. It usually works out that happens more
12 often than not. So, for a below average to average return
13 of chum salmon, that translates to a 50,000 to 30,000
14 commercial harvest. The latest 10-year harvest average is
15 330,000 chum salmon.

16
17 In coho salmon, in the fall, especially coho
18 salmon, coho salmon is a big question mark. We're very
19 uncertain on our outlook of coho salmon. We had a record
20 parent year in 1996 that's going to produce most of -- most
21 of the coho come back as four-year-old fish in this river.
22 The escapement during parent year in 1996 was excellent.
23 It was the highest we've ever recorded. The only problem
24 with that is that over the last three years we had
25 extremely poor returns of coho salmon that came from brood
26 years, parent years that were good parent year escapements.
27 So we've had a trend over the last three years with really
28 poor coho salmon survival. Putting that all together, a
29 record escapement, poor survival in the last couple years,
30 the best we can do for an outlook, the best scenario we can
31 come up with is somewhere between a below average to
32 possibly an average return of coho and that translates into
33 somewhere between 100,000 and 500,000 coho harvested in the
34 commercial fishery and that compares with a 510,000 average
35 coho harvest over the last 10 years.

36
37 Hopefully -- we definitely hope and we definitely
38 are going to be looking and watching closely, that maybe
39 the poor survival of coho will turn around. If it does,
40 maybe we could see an extremely good run of cohos. But
41 after the last three years we're going to hedge our bets
42 and not get too carried away. That's the best we're going
43 to be able to do.

44
45 Quinhagak, District 4, I'll go down the Quinhagak
46 now. Chinook salmon, based on the parent year escapements
47 and recent returns of king salmon, we're projecting
48 somewhere between a below average up to an average return
49 and that would translate into 10,000 to 20,000 commercial
50 catch. The 10-year average commercial catch in Quinhagak

00222

1 is 20,000 chinook.

2

3 Sockeye salmon, we expect at least an average
4 return there. Sockeye salmon stocks down in Quinhagak and
5 Goodnews have been quite healthy, doing quite well, so we
6 believe at least an average harvest return. A harvest of
7 40 to 70,000 sockeye salmon. The 10-year average 60,000
8 sockeye salmon.

9

10 Chum salmon, we project at least an average
11 strength return of chum salmon to District 4 and a catch of
12 35,000 to 50,000 chum salmon versus an 10-year average
13 56,000.

14

15 Coho salmon, we're expecting, based on the parent
16 year harvest in that district, at least an average,
17 possible an above-average return of coho salmon for
18 District 4 and an anticipated commercial harvest of 30 to
19 80,000, which compares to a 10-year average coho harvest of
20 62,000 in District 4.

21

22 Goodnews Bay, District 5, is the last one in the
23 table there. Chinook salmon in District 5 have been a real
24 concern for the last 10 years. Very poor escapement, very
25 poor survival of chinook salmon in Goodnews Bay. We've had
26 to take management action to postpone the start of the
27 commercial fishery up until the end of June. We started
28 the fishery last year the 2nd of July because of the poor
29 chinook returns and the late run timing, last year's late
30 run timing. So we're projecting a below average return of
31 chinook salmon to District 5, Goodnews Bay, and a
32 commercial harvest of 1,000 to 2,000, which is in the range
33 -- we've only harvested about 2,000 chinook salmon a year
34 on the average the last 10 years. It's been very poor
35 chinook returns in Goodnews Bay the last couple years.

36

37 Sockeye salmon in Goodnews Bay, we're expecting at
38 least an average return and a 20 to 40,000 harvest,
39 commercial harvest, which compares to a 38,000 10-year
40 average commercial harvest of sockeye.

41

42 Chum salmon, we're also expecting an average
43 return, at least an average return of chum salmon 10,000 to
44 15,000 harvest, 15,000 is the 10-year average there.

45

46 Coho salmon, as in W-4, we're also expecting at
47 least an average and possibly an above average return of
48 coho based on the parent year returns. In '96, a harvest
49 of 10 to 25,000 coho salmon in Goodnews Bay compares to an
50 average of 22,000 for a 10-year average of coho.

00223

1 So, I guess for most species in most districts,
2 it's just all over the board as far as -- most of the
3 Kuskokwim River are below average to average returns we're
4 projecting for the Kuskokwim River for all species, except
5 sockeye we're expecting an average, possibly above average
6 return of sockeye. In District 4, we're expecting a below
7 average to average return of kings, average to above
8 average returns of sockeye, chums and coho. District 5
9 we're expecting a below average return of king salmon and
10 average to above average returns of chum, sockeye and coho
11 salmon.

12
13 That concludes my presentation of the outlook. If
14 you have any questions, I'll take them now.

15
16 CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hanson.

17
18 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Charley, all these figures are commercial. Your escapement
20 is included in these figures, but I don't see any spawning
21 figures for the last five years. What is your escapement
22 in all your figures, below escapement goal or right up to
23 the escapement goal?

24
25 MR. BURKEY: In what species and what year,
26 I mean it's different every year. This is just -- all this
27 gives you is our outlook or range of commercial harvest.
28 This is based on management strategy that we achieve our
29 escapement goal and these are the projected harvests that
30 would be excess to achieving our escapement goals. What
31 goes into these outlooks are what we feel our evaluation of
32 the escapements in the parent years that's going to produce
33 the runs. So, no, this report does not lay out or tell you
34 our escapements over the last five years. Some species and
35 some years we've made our escapements in some systems, some
36 we haven't. Over the last three years -- I'll tell you,
37 over the last three years chum salmon, we have had very
38 poor escapements of chum salmon over the last three years.

39
40
41 And for the Kuskokwim River we've gotten what we
42 feel are good or adequate escapements of red salmon in the
43 Kuskokwim River over the last three years. Our chinook
44 salmon escapements, last year we feel that the chinook
45 salmon escapement into the river was relatively poor. It
46 was poor the previous year. The year before that we felt
47 they were better escapements. Coho salmon in '97 and '99,
48 we had very poor coho salmon escapements. And in '98 we
49 had near adequate coho salmon escapements.

50

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1 In the Bay, in District 4, we've had -- our
2 escapements for chinook salmon have been near average, near
3 adequate. Our escapements of sockeye and chum have been,
4 for the most part, very good. Our escapement of coho,
5 except for last year, last year's escapement of coho in the
6 bay, District 4 and District 5 was very poor and the two
7 years before that were better, average to above average.
8 So that's, in a nutshell, kind of -- and the chinook salmon
9 escapement in District 5, as I mentioned, has been very
10 poor, they've been pretty poor, below average in most cases
11 for the last five years.

12
13 MR. HANSON: Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Charley.

16
17 MR. BURKEY: Now, we're going to play tag
18 team here. Vince Golembeski from the Yukon is going to
19 give you a presentation on the Yukon.

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We've got 15 minutes to
22 go. That's all we have. The first plane will arrive.

23
24 MR. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Willard.

27
28 MR. CHURCH: I'd like to go on record that
29 I'm changing my vote for support of our project to abstain.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

32
33 MR. CHURCH: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) (No
36 translation) So I thought I'd let you guys know because we
37 don't have very much time, we're going to handle this by
38 teleconference.

39
40 MR. GOLEMBESKI: Mr. Chairman, members of
41 the council. My name is Vincent Golembeski. I'm the
42 assistant area management biologist for the Yukon area for
43 chinook and chum salmon. The paper in front of you has a
44 map of the Yukon area, which has six commercial fishing
45 districts, subsistence fishing takes place throughout the
46 drainage. I see a lot of familiar faces that belong to
47 Fish & Game Advisory Councils, so you're pretty much aware
48 of the statistics and boundaries.

49
50 On the first page is a brief synopsis of how the

00225

1 1999 season went compared to the previous 10 years. For
2 the most part, it's a pretty poor season. We had poor
3 escapements throughout the drainage for various species.
4 We had an adequate subsistence harvest. The data is still
5 being tabulated as we speak, but everyone that we
6 interviewed on the river seems to have made their
7 subsistence needs.

8
9 Since we don't have much time, I'll just go to the
10 outlook for the year 2000 and that's on page 2. Basically
11 for chinook salmon the 2000 run outlook, we're expecting a
12 weak to below average run. We're anticipating a commercial
13 harvest of somewhere between 25,000 and 65,000 fish
14 throughout the drainage and our guideline harvest range of
15 67,350 to 129,150 king salmon.

16
17 Typically, a majority of the chinook salmon will
18 return to the Yukon River as six-year-old fish, although
19 five and seven-year-old fish usually make a significant
20 contribution to the run. Spawning ground escapements in
21 1994, the brood year producing six-year-old fish returning
22 to year 2000 were judged to be above average in magnitude.
23 However, the return of four and five-year-old fish
24 returning in 1998 and 1999 appeared to be well below
25 average in strength, indicating abnormally poor production
26 from the 1994 escapement. Additionally, the apparently low
27 survival from age five fish returning in 1998 and the
28 sibling age six fish returning in 1999 continue recent
29 below average trends of survival. The seven-year-old
30 return is expected to be below average.

31
32 Overall, the year 2000 chinook salmon run is
33 anticipated to be weak to below average strength for the
34 third year in a row. Commercial harvest in Alaska is
35 expected to be between 25,000 to 65,000 chinook salmon,
36 representing the range of catch well below all the years
37 except three others recorded during a previous third year
38 period.

39
40 So, going into the season, we're looking to be
41 cautious and conservative. We may have to reduce
42 commercial fishing time in the Lower Yukon. You may have
43 to have just four-hour openings to make sure we meet our
44 escapements and subsistence needs. That's the main thing I
45 wanted to bring across to you on the chinook salmon season.
46 It's not looking like a good year going in. It's a year
47 similar to last year, which is better than '98, but not a
48 whole lot better.

49
50 Our summer chum salmon, we're also looking for a

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1 weak to below average return. The harvest outlook is
2 anywhere from 25,000 to 300,000 depending on production and
3 also markets. The guideline harvest range for summer chum
4 salmon is 400,000 to 1,200,000.

5
6 The fall chum salmon, we're looking at a pre-season
7 run outlook of 569,000 to 1,137,000. Commercial harvest is
8 anywhere from 0 to 321,500. The guideline harvest range of
9 72,750 to 320,500.

10
11 The coho salmon, we're looking at a below average
12 to average run. Those fish are basically an incidental
13 harvest for fall chum fishery and there is no guideline
14 harvest range. Are there any questions? I can get into
15 more detail, but it looks like it's 3:00.

16
17 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're planning to have a
18 meeting in Emmonak the 4th of next month.

19
20 MR. GOLEMBESKI: I believe when we talked
21 we were talking about the 10th or 11th.

22
23 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Sometime in that area.
24 We've got a lot of things to take care of, but Yukon River,
25 we've had a lot of problems there. We're going to try to
26 iron out some of the problems in the Yukon meeting in
27 Emmonak. What date is that?

28
29 MR. GOLEMBESKI: You're talking about April
30 10th and 11th. I drafted up a brief agenda.

31
32 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. That's the agenda
33 there?

34
35 MR. GOLEMBESKI: That's a draft there,
36 subject to revision.

37
38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. That's the meeting.
39 Anything else for the council? We thank you.

40
41 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I have one thing.

42
43 CHAIRMAN WILDE: I thought you said no.

44
45 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I forgot one
46 thing that I said that we would do in support of a
47 resolution that was passed by the people of Holy Cross
48 objecting to the catch and release of pike fish because of
49 the high mortality of the fish they catch. Mr. Chairman, I
50 would like to move that we -- if you want a little more

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1 detail on that, I would like to move that we, as this
2 group, support the efforts of Holy Cross in suppressing the
3 catch and release of pike fish in the Innoko River.

4
5 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion. Is
6 there a second to the motion?

7
8 MR. OWELTUCK: Second.

9
10 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Seconded by Alvin.
11 Discussion?

12
13 MS. GREGORY: Question.

14
15 CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been
16 called for. We'll use our roll call.

17
18
19 MR. CHURCH: Mary Gregory?

20
21 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

22
23 MR. CHURCH: Billy McCann?

24
25 MR. McCANN: Yeah.

26
27 MR. CHURCH: Phillip Moses?

28
29 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

30
31 MR. CHURCH: Alvin Oweltuck, Sr.?

32
33 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

34
35 MR. CHURCH: James Charles?

36
37 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

38
39 MR. CHURCH: Lester Wilde?

40
41 MR. WILDE: Yes.

42
43 MR. CHURCH: John Hanson, Sr.?

44
45 MR. HANSON: Yeah.

46
47 MR. CHURCH: Willard Church, yes. Robert
48 Nick?

49
50 MR. NICK: Yes.

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1 MR. CHURCH: Harry Wilde, Sr.?

2
3 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes. The ayes have it.
4 That's it. Next place for a meeting, it's something
5 interesting and we never have done before, next fall
6 meeting we are invited by the traditional council chief
7 from Kotlik. It's an interesting village. Kotlik is a
8 very interesting village. They've got five more entities,
9 organizations there in one village. They've got city
10 council and also traditional council, also tribal council
11 and elders council and the New Hamilton Tribal Council -- I
12 mean Hamilton Tribal Council, so it's going to be a very
13 interesting meeting. We've never been to a meeting with
14 that many organizations in one village. So we are invited.
15 It's up to the council. Do you want to meet there at
16 Kotlik?

17
18 MR. HANSON: Were they the only ones that
19 invited us?

20
21 CHAIRMAN WILDE: No, all the people,
22 council or Federal Subsistence Council are invited to that
23 village.

24
25 MR. WILDE: In light of that information,
26 Mr. Chairman, I move that the next meeting be held in
27 Kotlik.

28
29 MR. HANSON: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a
32 second to have a meeting at Kotlik. Discussion? The
33 question has been called for. All in favor say aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN WILDE: And opposed say no.

38
39 (No opposing responses)

40
41 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. We'll
42 have our next meeting at Kotlik. (In Yup'ik)

43
44 INTERPRETER: Phillip, I would like to ask
45 you.....

46
47 MS. GREGORY: What date are we meeting in
48 Kotlik, what month?

49
50 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) (No

00229

1 translation)

2

3 MR. ANDREW: October, the week after AVCP
4 convention. This meeting will take place on Tuesday and
5 Wednesday.

6

7 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik) (No
8 translation) Taylor, do you know what window we have?

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: It's at Tab W or X, the
11 last tab in the booklet, the briefing booklets. The very
12 last one.

13

14 CHAIRMAN WILDE: October 10 and 11.

15

16 MR. BRELSFORD: I think there's a staffing
17 conflict because part of the staff has to cover the eastern
18 interior meeting that starts on the 11th.

19

20 CHAIRMAN WILDE: We could 16 and 17. I
21 don't know how big of a window we have. If there's any way
22 that -- as long as we can complete the other organizations
23 Taylor, I usually see the meeting schedule in the
24 newspaper. in a newspaper what date we're going to have a
25 meeting at Kotlik.

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, just to move
28 this along, it sounds as though the best thing might be to
29 make a tentative schedule for Monday and Tuesday, October
30 9th and 10th. We'll finish any planning -- we'll work out
31 any plans with you later. But that would be the week after
32 AVCP convention and the week before AFN.

33

34 MR. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) (No translation)

35

36 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fish & Wildlife won't be
37 showing up on the 9th.

38

39 MR. BRELSFORD: I think I can speak for Tom
40 Boyd and say that since the council members are volunteers,
41 we will have some flexibility on the part of the federal
42 staff to help the meetings get held on the right times. We
43 have some conflicts that week. It's busy during those
44 three weeks, so something has to stretch. I think we
45 should just adopt a tentative date of 9th and 10th and see
46 if we can work out any problems later.

47

48 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Let's work it out
49 like that. Robert.

50

00230

1 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: These people who are from
4 these communities, they are very disappointed we didn't
5 touch on the hovercraft situation. Hovercraft are
6 affecting all our fish, but unfortunately we don't have
7 time to discuss it. Can you suggest a tentative window?

8

9 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Taylor, I always have to
10 call on you. We need to have a teleconference with two
11 islands. There's people from other villages. Hovercraft
12 and five items, I think. How's that thing going to work?

13

14 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I'm sitting in for
15 Peggy this week, so normally Peggy would be here and I'll
16 try and say what I think she would say. We have a lot of
17 extra work right now while we're starting the fisheries
18 program and so some meetings are short and we have leftover
19 business. So I think we would be supportive of an
20 additional teleconference. If you would give us an idea of
21 when to try to schedule it, then John can help -- we'll try
22 to figure out the actual schedule for the teleconference.

23

24 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Let's do it this
25 way. Me and Robert will choose talking in English and then
26 pass it over to our coordinator. Huh?

27

28 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes. All right.

29

30 CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

31

32 INTERPRETER: So, at this time, we would
33 like to call on our elder to close our meeting. Phillip.

34

35 MR. MOSES: (Benediction in Yup'ik) (No
36 translation)

37

38 CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana.

39

40 (MEETING ADJOURNED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 143 through 230 contain
a full, true and correct Transcript of the VOLUME II, YUKON-
KUSKOKWIM FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING, taken electronically by Susan Reilly on the 22st day
of March, 2000, beginning at the hour of 8:00 o'clock a.m. at
the Nunapitchuk Community Hall, Nunapitchuk, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of April, 2000.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00